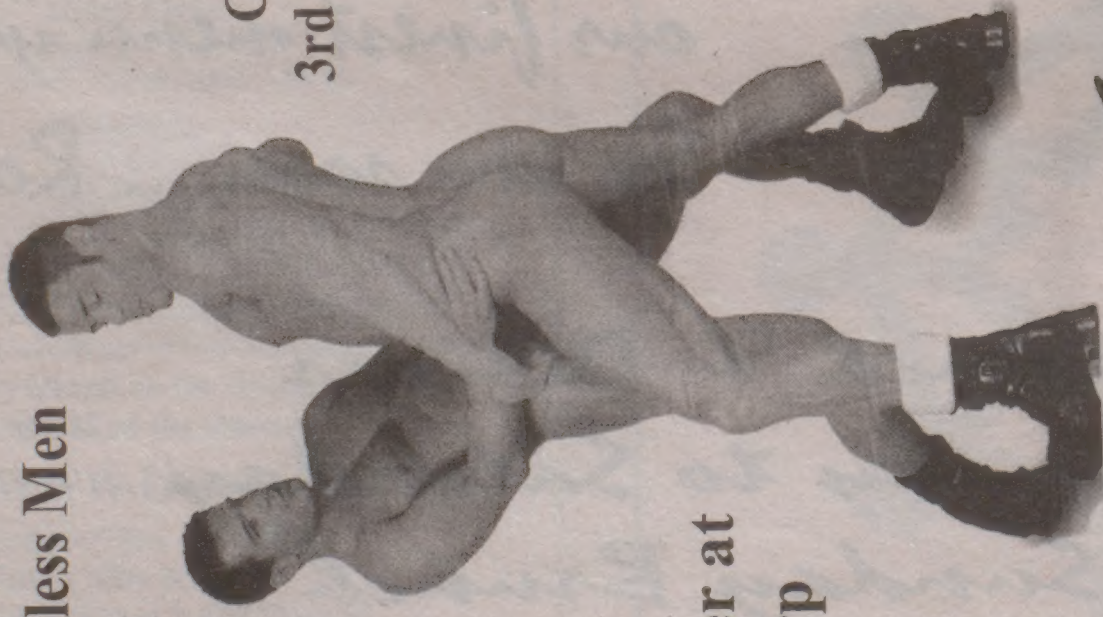


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May '99 Vol 6 Number 8

Billy's
Story

Pg's 8,9

Identity

Pg's 10, 11, 14

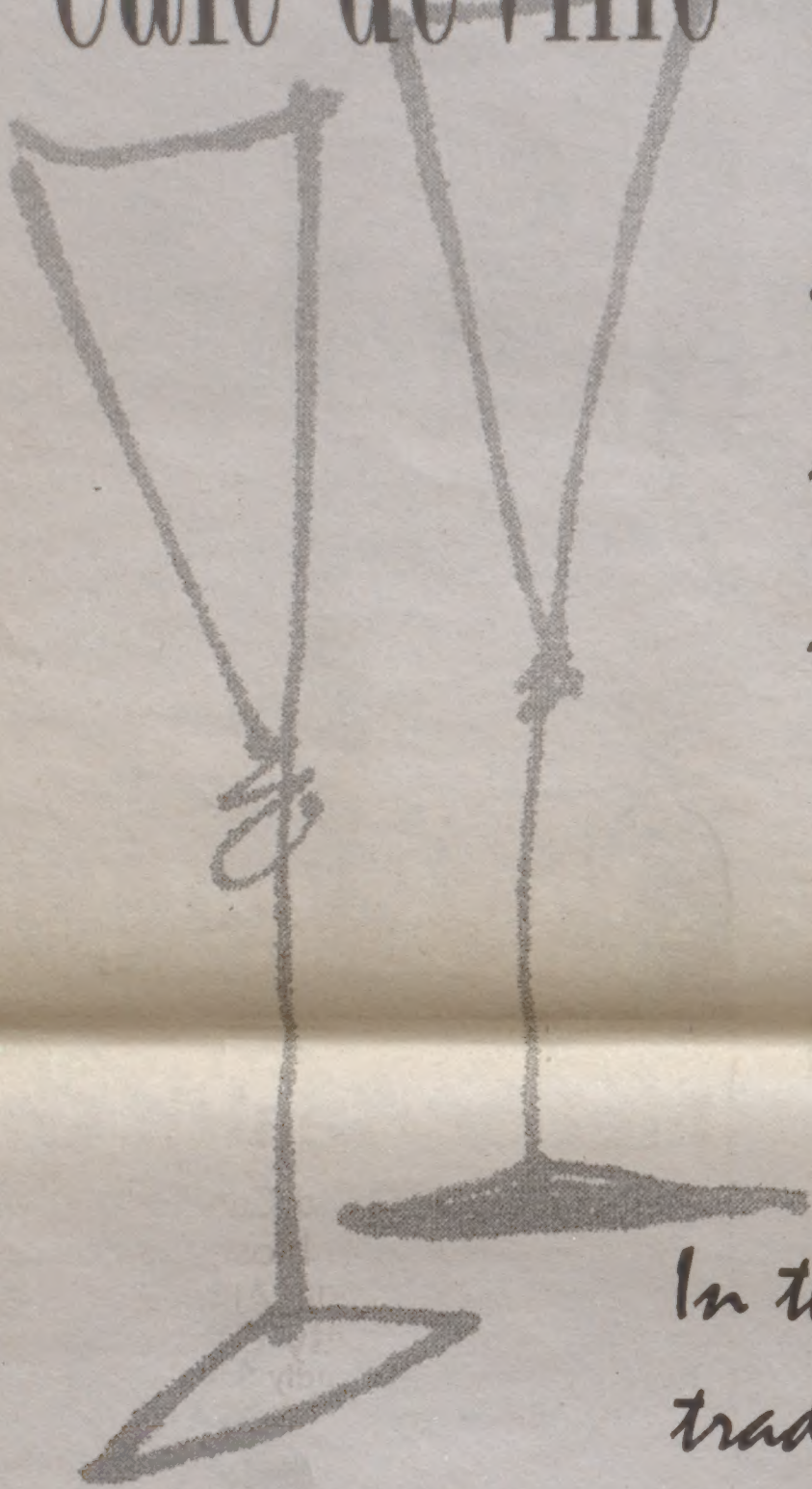
Politics

Pg's 6, 7, 18

Fun

Pg's 12, 24, 32

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Vol. 6 Number 8
May, 1999
Edmonton, Alberta

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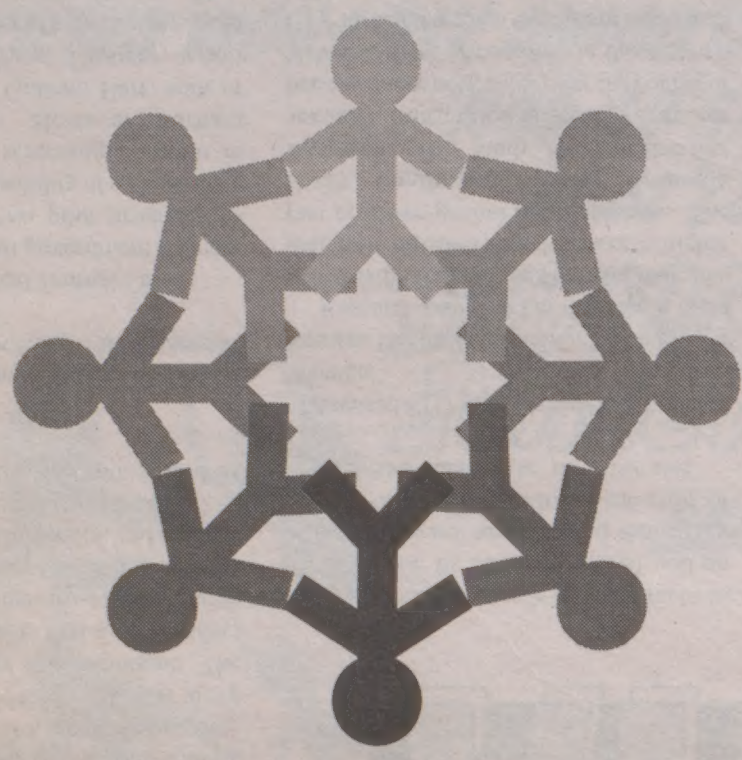
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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"AIDS Growing Faster Than Funding, Report Says"
Fox News Online

A U.N. study released Wednesday concluded that the money spent on the fight against AIDS is not keeping pace with the spread of the epidemic. In 1990, 9.8 million people were estimated to be infected with HIV worldwide and \$165 million was allocated for HIV prevention; however, an estimated 47 million people are now HIV-positive and \$350 million is being spent to fight the disease. According to Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, the AIDS epidemic is the greatest threat to global development today. The report, conducted by UNAIDS and Harvard University, found that the United States leads the world in AIDS funding, contributing \$135.2 million in 1997; but it was also noted that the United States and other industrialized nations spend less than 1 percent of their overseas development budgets on the epidemic.

"Drugs/AIDS Link Study Is Joint Effort"

Bangkok Post Online

In a letter to the Bangkok Post, researchers point out that their study of the link between drug use and AIDS is not solely an American project, but the product of a Thai-U.S. collaboration. Furthermore, they note that they are not the first to study the issue in Thailand: the Thai Ministry of Health has conducted several such studies. In their report, the researchers "called for a strengthening of drug abuse treatment and the consideration of methadone maintenance for effective treatment of opioid dependence." However, they agree that aggressive education and counseling—both for users and those considering starting drug use—are also necessary. Increased efforts against drug trafficking are also important. The researchers note that a new project they are working on—a collaboration of the Ministry of Public Health, Chiang Mai University, and the U.S. National Institutes of Health—focuses on HIV prevention for drug addicts.

"Sexuality and Health: The Hidden Costs of Screening for Chlamydia Trachomatis"

British Medical Journal Online

The British government recently established two pilot programs to assess the feasibility of a Chlamydia trachomatis screening program in the country. However, Barbara Duncan and Graham Hart, both of the University of Glasgow, assert targeting women for the testing could have unintentional effects. They note that "women with positive cervical smears report feelings of contamination which impact negatively on self perceptions of attractiveness and also on sexual functioning." In addition, they contend that testing only women for

chlamydia may further exacerbate inequalities between genders, with men involved only as contacts of infected women. In order to develop a public health program that will add to the acceptability of any future screening efforts, the authors state that chlamydia education efforts need to address both men and women's health needs and should not further inequalities between the sexes.

"UK Sees Record HIV Infection Levels in 1998"

San Jose Mercury News Online

New statistics estimate that the number of new HIV infections in the United Kingdom rose to almost 3,000 last year, the highest rate since the epidemic began. The Terrence Higgins Trust, which made the predictions, said the findings reflect a need for greater safe sex education. The charity has yet to compile the final statistics for 1998, but noted that the number of HIV-infected individuals in the United

"3-D Imaging Guides Design of AIDS Drug"
Wall Street Journal

Agenerase, a new AIDS drug expected to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration very soon, is one of the most recent drugs developed using structure-based drug design, which involves the use of powerful three-dimensional computer imaging technology. By using x-rays to create a comprehensive picture on an enzyme responsible for disease, researchers can create other molecules and manipulate them until they are effective in disabling the disease enzyme. While drugs typically take about

six years of development before they can be tested in humans, Vertex Pharmaceuticals used this technique and developed Agenerase in about two years; Glaxo Wellcome will market the drug.

"Doctors Must Report Names of Those Who Test HIV-Positive"

Topeka Capital-Journal Online

Kansas Gov. Bill Graves signed into law

the virus. At the recent Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Franco Lori of the Research Institute for Genetic and Human Therapy presented the case of a patient in Berlin using a triple-drug combination that was stopped twice and ultimately suspended who showed negligible HIV levels after two years. A study by Lori involving monkeys found a similar result at 145 days after the animals had taken several monitored drug holidays. Despite the animal study and other anecdotal evidence of similar success, researchers emphasized that randomized controlled trials were needed to be sure the approach was effective in humans and did not lead to drug resistance. If the strategy does prove effective, researchers said it may be possible for some patients to suspend drug treatment indefinitely.

"Risky Business"
Advocate

Experts are unable to explain why, and few if any can understand the reasons when provided, but a number of recent studies indicate there has been an increase in the number of gay men who regularly engage in unprotected anal sex, also known as barebacking. According to a survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about gay male sexual habits in San Francisco, 60.8 percent of men surveyed in 1997 said they always used a condom, compared to 69.9 percent in 1994. And 68 percent of those who participated in unprotected anal sex with multiple partners said they did not know the HIV status of all their partners. For many gay men, the primary justification for engaging in such risky behavior is that they do not see HIV infection as a threat to their lives—a contention the scientific community says is absolutely baseless. Some experts investigating this potentially deadly decision also note barebacking is seen by some as a way to celebrate risk, while others point out that young gay men living today automatically link being gay with having AIDS. In younger populations, the problem is exacerbated by the fact that many do not know a person who has died from AIDS. The issue of barebacking is particularly difficult to deal with for those trying to prevent HIV transmission and who fear the trend spread could convince others it is okay to have unprotected sex.

"Privacy Fears Over HIV Reporting Scheme"
Financial Times

A 45-day public comment period on New York State's plans to report the names of HIV-infected individuals ends on May 1. The measure—which has raised the ire of privacy advocates, minority groups, and AIDS activists—would also request that patients who test positive name past and present sexual or injection needle-sharing partners. Individuals who tested positive before the regulations took effect would be reported, while hospitals, physicians, and clinics would be allowed to reveal HIV data about patients to individuals who might have significant virus exposure due to their occupation, such as an ambulance driver. Although health officials assert the measure would help stem the spread of HIV, critics say the laws could force at-risk individuals to skip testing and treatment. Opponents have also voiced concerns regarding privacy of the information. The proposed regulations would continue to feature anonymous testing sites in New York; however, people who seek HIV treatment would have to be tested again and supply their names.

Thursday a measure that would force physicians and laboratories to report to the state Department of Health and Environment the names and addresses of individuals testing positive for HIV. Previously, only those diagnosed with AIDS had their names reported to the state; cases of HIV were reported only in terms of the number of infections. Under the new bill, the secretary of the state health department would be required to establish rules regarding the confidentiality of data about HIV-infected individuals that are as demanding as those employed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"HIV Heresy"
New Scientist

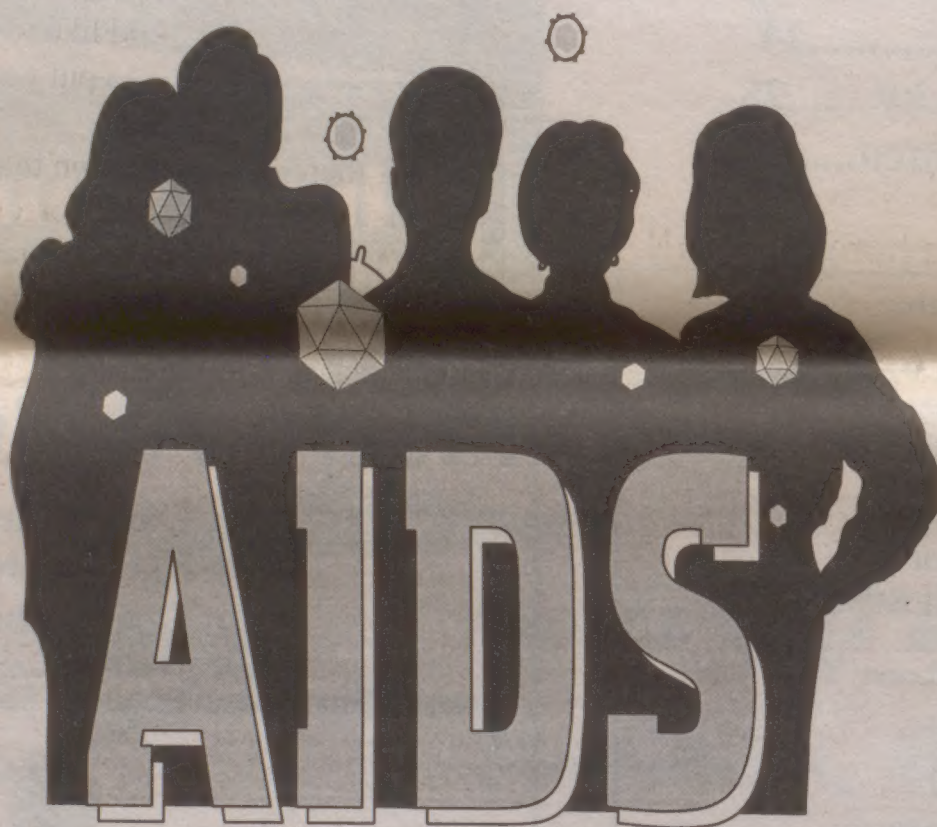
While the use of so called drug cocktails has greatly improved the lives of many HIV-infected patients, some AIDS researchers now are proposing that patients take carefully scheduled "holidays" from their combination therapies to let the body's own immune system fight the disease. Researchers advocating this approach believe that suspending use of the drug cocktail, which interrupts two key viral enzymes, will allow the body to create a strong cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) response that will control

Kingdom could increase by 50 percent to about 27,000 by 2003. A MORI poll on attitudes toward sex revealed that many groups were still unaware of the risks of unprotected intercourse, the trust said.

"Increased STD Risk Seen in HIV-Infected Women"

Reuters Health Information Services

Research published in the March issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases indicates that HIV-infected females have a higher rate of lower genital tract infection. The study, conducted by the Women's Interagency HIV Study, also revealed that sexually transmitted disease symptoms become more noticeable over the course of HIV infection. According to the authors, HIV-infected women were more likely than HIV-negative women to have a history of STDs, excluding bacterial vaginosis and chlamydia. To reduce the occurrence of lower genital tract symptoms and possible sequelae of STDs, the researchers recommend that women infected with HIV receive careful gynecologic exams.



GAY AND LESBIAN PARENT ACTIVITY AND SUPPORT GROUP

In February 1999, we placed a small article in Times 10 regarding the development of a Gay and Lesbian Parent Support Group. We had some response and would like to set a date for a first get-together. It is expected that the first gathering will focus on the developing of ideas around the need for such a group and the activities that we could be involved in.

We are suggesting that a meeting be set for Sunday, May 9th, perhaps a brunch or BBQ at someone's house. If this date is acceptable, and you wish to attend, I urge you to email us at rwsmith@firenet.edmonton.ab.ca or leave a message for Robert at GLCCE - 488-3234 and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have any suggestions as to an agenda or the type of meeting you would like to take part in, please do not hesitate to put your ideas forward.

If there is an indication that the date does not suit the majority of interested persons, we will try another time. Again, please do not hesitate to let us know. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



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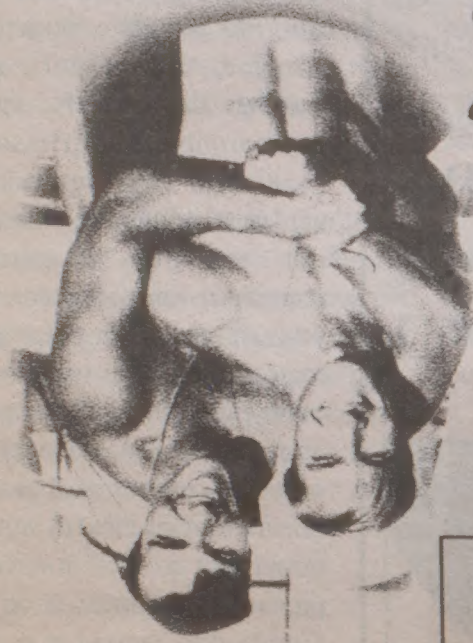
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Capital City Politics



The Fight goes on and on

By Pam Barrett ND Leader

My new Democrat colleague Raj Pannu and I are still fighting on behalf of gay and lesbian Albertans at the Legislature.

Hot on the heels of the controversial Bill 12, the Tories have introduced yet another legislative fence, designed to deny same-sex couples full legal equality. This time it's Bill 30 the Employment Pension Plans Amendment Act.

This is a perfect opportunity for the government to amend its existing pension legislation to allow private sector pension plans to give survivor benefits to same-sex spouses. The government is making some concessions on pre-retirement death benefits, allowing those to be extended to any designated beneficiary and not just spouses. Should a pension plan member die after retirement, however, the status quo remains — only "spouses" are eligible. And under the pension legislation, a spouse can only be a member of the opposite sex. However, the results of research that was done for the ministerial task force on same-sex issues indicated that equal pension benefits was one of the issues for which there was strong, public support. That's why this continued discrimination on same-sex pension benefits is all the more maddening.

And finally, Alberta's current pension legislation is already

in legal danger. A recent Ontario court decision read equal benefits for same-sex spouses into that province's legislation.

There is a clear trend at all levels of the Canadian judicial system to recognize that gay and lesbian individuals deserve the same legal rights and obligations as everyone else. As the Conservatives fail to take that into account, they run the very real risk of long and expensive court battles, which they may very well lose.

It is frustrating to have to sit across the Legislature floor from a government that repeatedly brings legislation that denies legal rights and obligations to gay and lesbian Albertans. Yet I want to ensure those individuals they have the continued support of the New Democrat Opposition.



User Fees—A Tax by Any Other Name!

By Howard Sapers, MLA

Alberta Liberal proposals ensure there will be no more taxation without representation in Alberta, says Sapers

After indulging in six years of taxation without representation, the time has come for this government to develop a comprehensive policy which links the revenues raised from user fees to the cost of providing services to Albertans, says Alberta Liberal Treasury Critic Howard Sapers.

"This government's record of bringing in over 400 new or increased user fees through the back door of regulation without any concrete cost of service analysis is

shameful," said Sapers. "Alberta Liberals want to make sure the door of 'tax by regulation' is shut once and for all."

Sapers outlined a series of recommendations from the Official Opposition that should guide the government's review of user fees and charges in light of the Supreme Court decision in the Eurig Estates case (see attached).

"The government's 'user fee mania' must be stopped," said Sapers. "There is only one taxpayer and this government has been milking that taxpayer to the tune of \$285 million for the past six years."

"The Premier and the Provincial Treasurer asked for the input of the Alberta Liberal Caucus on this issue. Our recommendations form the basis for a comprehensive policy on cost recovery for designated government programs and services. We hope the Premier and the Treasurer actually listen this time," concluded Sapers.

For more information contact:

Howard Sapers, MLA
Alberta Liberal Treasury Critic
Phone: (780) 915 1297

Official Opposition Recommendations on User Fees and Charges

- Develop and adopt a comprehensive user fees and charges policy, with clear implementation standards, based on the principle of a definitive link between the fee charged and the internal cost to government of providing or producing the good or service;
- Establish a process to engage clients and/or users in the design and delivery of cost recovery programs and services;
- Eliminate user fees and charges that violate the Eurig Estates decision, or, on a case-by-case basis, bring them before the Legislative Assembly for debate. If there is a compelling case for continuation of certain fees and charges, there must be an acknowledgement that those user fees and charges constitute taxes, which should be collected as a credit to the General Revenue Fund;
- Amend the Financial Administration Act to require the annual publication of a report detailing a list of all user fees and charges, the revenues raised from each user fee and charge, as well as the cost of service associated with each user fee and charge;
- Amend the Government Accountability Act to require a detailed list of all user fees and charges, and associated cost of service data, to be included in the three-year Ministry business plans and annual reports, in order that those user fees and charges receive the scrutiny and approval of the Legislative Assembly;
- Formally tie or link user fees and charges to performance measures and benchmarks for services as contained in the three-year Ministry business plans;
- Amend the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act to require that all user fees and charges proposed by the government be referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Regulations for scrutiny;
- Amend the Government Organization Act to require that all Delegated Administrative Organizations, and other entities that do not fall under the government's reporting entity (RHAs, universities, colleges and school boards), provide a detailed list of all user fees and charges and associated cost of service data in their three-year business plans and annual reports;
- Require government ministries to prepare and publicly release impact analysis statements on all proposed new or increased user fees and charges. These impact analysis statements would examine issues related to the cost of service, such as the impact of the fee or charge on the ministerial budget, workload volumes, unit production costs, overhead costs, and the direct and indirect costs of those fees and charges on users or clients;
- Develop and refine government cost accounting systems to ensure that all user fees and charges are linked to cost of service data in order to justify the level of user fees and charges;
- Establish process so that government must compare the competitiveness of its user fee and charges regime with other jurisdictions;
- Establish a formal appeal mechanism for clients and users to appeal those user fees and charges they believe may not be justified;
- Develop process for the Auditor General to conduct an annual performance audit of all user fees and charges.



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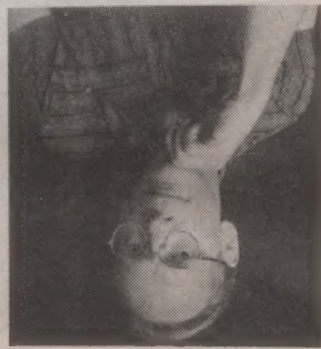
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Does It Matter?



"This is the moment
When I can open up
Tomorrow like a flower..."
Hayward

by Dennis Cambly

the toughest is losing a friend. I lost my first friend when I was in high school and a motorist killed him. Tom was a wonderful person full of life and laughter and we spent countless hours talking about how things would be when we got older. He never got the chance to get older and do all the things he wanted to do in his life. It was my first look at reality. I would never get to see his smile again, except in a memory.

many dreams never quite making them

come to ask the question: "does it really matter". When faced with yet another conflict can we not talk to each other or have we lost our sense of dream making. Are we standing on opposite sides of the Grand Canyon yelling at each other or can we somehow build bridges instead of fences.

just because I am a gay man. I suppose though that the only thing I might have done differently was to have made a better friend of my Dad. We did get to be good friends prior to his death and talked openly and freely with each other. His war stories would sometimes drive me crazy, but it was later that I realized that he was only nineteen years old when he went to war. As I studied the history of our great wars and became aware of the fact that tens of millions of people perished, his stories became a reality check.

Why do we spend so much time arguing and fighting about things that are of so little importance? I have

So, does it matter, that you can tell a lie to the person in the mirror?

but no person leaves without a trace. things around us fall apart and vanish, faith in them that matters. Material In life, it is only the people, and the that has fallen before me.

I remember, a tear falls for everyone always will be my friend. Tonight as car in the spring of 1998. He was and I felt as I helped carry his casket to the there were no regrets. What a sorrow occasions it actually happened and together to have fun. On a few dreaming up plans to get people Jon and I used to spend so many hours

Bill's Story

Portrait of a Son's Suicide

By Gabi Clayton (Bill's mother)

Coming Out

Bill came out to us as bisexual when he was 14. He was afraid to tell us, because he knew that their kids had told their parents and that their parents had disowned them or reacted in other ways that were frightening. He had read the book I had loaned him "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives," and there were coming out stories in the book. Finally he worked up the courage to tell us and we assured him that we loved him and accepted him. He was so happy that he wanted to tell the whole world. We recommended a support group out at the college, which I had just graduated from. Bill went to that group three times and stopped - he said he really liked it but that he was fine and didn't need to go any more.

The Kid I Knew and Loved

Bill was the child who came home from school the first week in first grade SO excited because his teacher had let him go to a special room! Turns out he finished a project early and decided to make animal noises to entertain the other children. As discipline he was sent to the coatroom off the classroom. He enjoyed

swinging on the closet bar so much that he wondered if the teacher would let him do it again the next day.

He was a gifted student who didn't always get the best of grades because he was always doing twenty things at the same time - and homework wasn't always on the top of the list.

Shy? Well, he told me that he was shy, but it was really hard to tell. His friends always loved him - when he wasn't driving them crazy.

He wanted to be a sculptor, a teacher, an architect, a counselor...

An Assault

So, he told us he went to that support group three times, and we didn't question it. Over the next year he had a hard time in school, but seemed basically OK - sometimes somewhat withdrawn or moody. We were worried, but thought it was just typical teen emotional ups and downs. We were wrong.

On the way to the third support group meeting, he had met a man from the group who was 20 years old and who told Bill he was a member of another support group for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered youth. He talked Bill into getting off the bus to go to his house "to borrow a book". When they got there he made Bill have sex with him. Bill was only a 14 year old kid who didn't expect this, didn't know what to do, and he was unable to stop it. He came home that day and pretended he had gone to that meeting because he didn't want to admit to anyone - especially himself - what had happened. Ironically perhaps, at the time I was doing a graduate internship at a

were overwhelming him and that he was suicidal. He asked Sam not to tell anyone, but Sam put the friendship on the line and told me, because he didn't want to lose his friend. Bill was relieved once we knew, and we reported it to the police and got Bill started with a therapist.

It took the police a long time to find the man. When they finally questioned him he confessed to exactly what Bill had said. Then he got a lawyer, plead not guilty at his arraignment, and managed to avoid jail and court until a month after Bill died. (He finally went to prison for 13 months.) So, Bill would see him around town - which aggravated the post-traumatic stress he was in counseling for. There were times when Bill would suddenly take a nosedive into severe depression for no apparent reason. Later we would find out that it was because he had seen this man on the bus or at the movies. Bill was so depressed and suicidal at one point that he spent some time in the hospital.

He stayed in counseling, and finally was getting back to being his old, impish self again. His mental health improved tremendously. He had a summer job doing computer and office stuff, and he loved it. He started looking forward to school again (after two rough years), and he felt like he had a future. Yes, he was back! He and his counselor agreed that he was done with therapy, and she closed his case with Crime Victims Compensation - on April 5th, 1995.

The Beginning of the End

The Activist Club at Olympia High School had invited Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer to speak at a school assembly in honor of Women's History



counseling center that specializes in sexual abuse.

Bill finally told Sam, his best friend. He told Sam that the memories of that sexual assault

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Tuesday, May 11th

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Luncheon Meeting
Friday, May 14th,
Jazzberrys, 10116-124 Street
11:30 - 1:30 P.M.

Month. (She is the highest-ranking person to have challenged the military's ban of gays, and was the subject of the TV movie "Serving in Silence.")

Controversy erupted when

a group of homophobic

parents and community

members -

object to homosexuality

on "religious grounds" -

mostly people who

are

members

of the

community

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came casually walking through with two other friends, to visit a friend who had just had a baby. Sam saw him and Sam's parents called the police. When they found him he confessed and told the police who the other guys were - they were all under 18 years old. The police treated it as a hate crime from the very beginning.



A Rally Against Hate
A lot of wonderful people in Olympia responded quickly and supported Bill (and us all) and held an incredible anti-hate crime rally on April 14th, a few days after the assault. Many people spoke there, including Colonel Cammermeyer, who returned to support the kids.

At the rally, Bill spoke from his heart. He said: "In all likelihood, my friends Sam and Jenny will never have to tolerate this - or never have to endure this type of hate crime or any other type in their lives - and I hope that's true. But as an openly bisexual person in Olympia, I'm probably - or may be - the victim of this sort of thing again. Hate crimes - especially those against homosexuals and bisexuals and transgendered people are on the rise in this area. And that is why now - more than ever - we, the gay community need to come out and band together and fight for our civil rights and our right to be safe in our homes and on the streets. Thank you for coming."

I spoke to Bill - and to all the people who were there in Sylvester Park that day. I stood at the microphone (voice and hands shaking - I am not comfortable with making speeches) and I said: "First of all I felt it was important to tell Bill how very much I love him and how incredibly proud I am of him. And I'm incredibly proud of him not just for the courage he's showing tonight and since this happened, but because of who he is as a person - and that means every bit of him including the fact that he is bisexual. I think it's important for parents to do that..."

"My father was a German Jewish refugee, and the hate he faced as a child in Germany is the same hate that my son and these kids

faced on that street by that school. And hate doesn't grow in a vacuum. It can't grow unless we allow it to. It grows on fear and it grows on silence."

Alec (my husband and Bill's dad, who had always been the one of us who handled public speaking with more ease) stepped up to the microphone and said: "I had a speech planned - but this outpouring of sympathy for Bill so that they would travel with sticks in a beautiful bonfire to release the land behind Sam's house and placed each close friends took the baskets of sticks to the sticks. Later that night family and a few the street) in silent vigil, and there we collected person's candle. Each person took their candle over to Sylvester Park (which was just across ceremony we stood at the door and lit each

Consequences of Hate

We thought he was going to make it - he seemed to handle things really well until after the rally, and then he crashed back into depression. He was suicidal again - it was too much. The assault sent him right back into the place he had fought so hard to get out of. He suddenly became depressed and suicidal, and we had to put him in the hospital again. While he was in the hospital he heard that a friend of his was gay-bashed at school in a nearby town.

Forgotten...

After about 10 days he came home. We and his doctors in the hospital thought he had gotten past being suicidal. But Bill took a massive overdose on May 8th. Alec found him unconscious on the kitchen floor and had him rushed to the hospital, but they couldn't save him.

He didn't leave a suicide note, but he had said to me before he was hospitalized after the rally that he was just tired of coping. It was the constant knowledge that at any time he could be attacked again simply because of who he was, that at any time his friends could be attacked for the same reason, that despite the love of his family and friends all he could see ahead was a lifetime of facing a world filled with hate and violence, going from one assault to another. He was 17 years old - an age when kids are supposed to be excited about moving out into the world as adults. The only place he felt safe was at home. He saw no hope, so he chose to end his life.

The memorial service we held for Bill was an incredible part of our healing process. It was a big job to put it all together. We felt it had to be something Bill would have wanted - and he had considered himself a pagan. We felt so strongly that he had to be respected in this last thing. It was an incredible ceremony - so many people helped, and so many friends and strangers came - we had let it be known that anyone in the community who wanted to come was invited. There was music and drumming and ceremony and people who wished to were given a chance to speak.

Everyone there had been asked to bring a (wig) to hold during the memorial and asked to think of good wishes for Bill. After the

ceremony we stood at the door and lit each person's candle. Each person took their candle over to Sylvester Park (which was just across the street) in silent vigil, and there we collected the sticks. Later that night family and a few close friends took the baskets of sticks to the land behind Sam's house and placed each stick in a beautiful bonfire to release the wishes for Bill so that they would travel with him. It was wonderful. Not at all "traditional" - but then we have never been known for being that.

Silence is where the hate grows

At the end of July I received another letter from them, explaining that as a certified member of the EBA they must adhere to medical standards established by a national medical advisory committee, with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They hoped I would understand that they had no choice but to decline the donation because the decision was based on national regulations...

Missed He Will Be, But Not

Bill's life and death has touched perhaps thousands of people. There was an outpouring of support for us here - both from friends and from people we had never met. Throughout the time of the hate crime and Bill's suicide I have never felt so supported and connected to a community.

Nothing will bring Bill back. I am sharing his story in the hope that it can help in some way to put an end to the hate and homophobia. This world cannot remain so hard to live in and to have hope in - not for all the "Bill's" who are out there now, and all who are yet to come.

Alec read "Bill's Story" and asked me to include this:

After Bill's death I found in one of his notebooks where he had drawn the gay symbol, a pink triangle. Across it he had written, "This is not my choice. This is not forced upon me. This just is."

We wanted to create some kind of memorial to Bill, and without making a conscious decision we realized that the best memorial we could create would be our own lives - working towards the elimination of the senseless and destructive hatred that is all too prevalent in our society.

Of those who may be touched by Bill's story we ask one thing: join us, for we do not believe that hate is a family value.

Celebrating Pride '99

By Rhonda Lothammer

Spring is in the air, and the irons are in the fire as we busily prepare for Pride '99 celebrations June 12-19th.

This year's theme is community, visibility, celebration. Very appropriate as we celebrate the first anniversary of the Vriend decision, an important victory for our community, and as we continue to fight for changes in legislation in Alberta.

PRIDE '99 will kick off with a concert by Edmonton's Vocal Minority choir on June 12th. Pride Day (June 19) activities will include a business fair and art show, and a big parade, followed by a rally and P-FLAG-T picnic. The festivities will end with the annual PRIDE awards show and mixed dance. It's just going to be a whole lot of fun!

Speaking of celebration, now is the time to put forward names for the Pride awards. Do you know someone who's been an outstanding contributor to our community and deserves to be recognized? Contact the number below to find out how to submit their name for consideration.

A final note: We've had several fund-raisers over the past few months. We'd like to send a big thank you to our generous sponsors and to those of you who've turned out for the events. Your support will help to make Pride '99 a big success.

Call 488-3442 to volunteer, take part in the parade, submit names for the Pride awards, or to plan an event.

Celebrating A Strong Community: The Pride Awards *Nominate! Nominate! Nominate!*

Kristy Harcourt

A major event at each year's GLBT Pride Celebrations is the awarding of certificates and awards for outstanding achievements. This ceremony gives us the chance to share our accomplishments and thank the people who do great work, take strong stands, make great things happen - whatever benefits this community. Last June, I was honoured with a Pride Award, and let me tell you, the pride was all mine. It was amazing to have my work linked to that of Maureen Irwin (for whom the award is named) and the previous recipients and to share the honour with last year's many worthy Pride Award and Certificate recipients.

A great way to get involved in the Pride Awards is to nominate someone for an appropriate award. Do so by writing a letter detailing their accomplishments and sending it (by email or post) to the Pride Awards Committee c/o the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton.

The deadline is May 25th. For more Info, call Pride at 488-3442.

* Pride Certificates are given to individuals, groups, businesses and event organizers whose work in the last year has contributed to the strength of this GLBT community.

* This year, the Pride Awards committee is proud to be naming a Pride Certificate in memory of Sheryl McInnes, to be awarded to someone contributing to GLBT Pride through their academic work; be they Instructors, Researchers or Students.

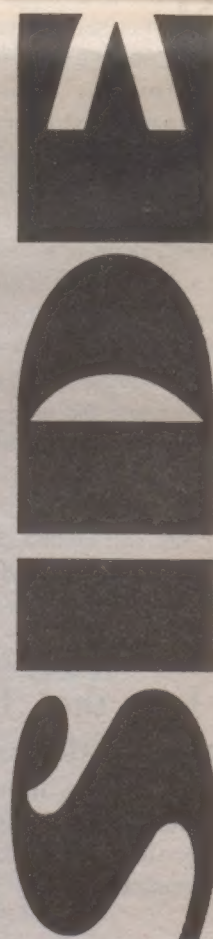
* The Maureen Irwin Award, is given each year to an Edmonton Lesbian (and the Michael Phair Award to a gay man) for their long-term and broad-based contributions to the GLBT community.

Pride Video The Newest is Gay Erotica



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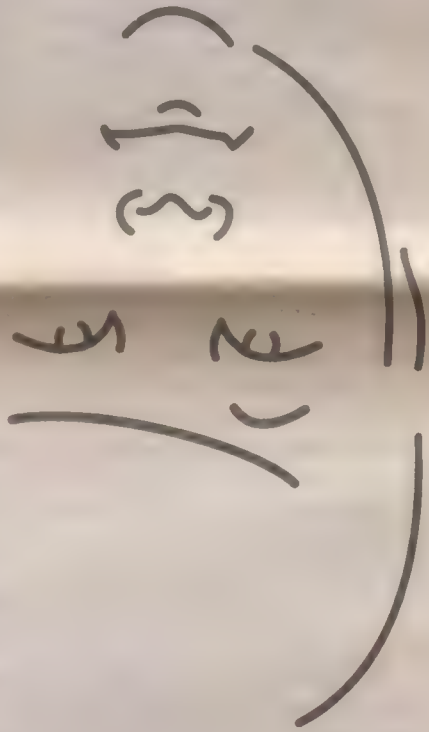
12212 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5M 4A8

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Harm Reduction Model

By Robert Smith, Health Promotion

As you may be aware, the AIDS Network (ANE) has not always been able to make the necessary changes in their lifestyles to incorporate abstinence. More importantly there may not be sufficient indication of the risk involved in particular behaviours to motivate the individual toward preventive and harm reduction solutions. These are some of the very basic principles of harm reduction as applied to overt and predictable behaviours. In order for these principles to be applied accurately they need four interrelated elements to guide them; skills, knowledge, resources and support.



One of the primary goals at ANE is to influence how youth are making decisions

and how those decisions affecting their sexual health impact on their overall development as competent and confident adults. When applying the principles of harm reduction to sexual behaviour we are outfitting the individual with all four of these elements to ensure their success at adhering to those principles. We help the individual to identify their own skills and the give them knowledge on how to apply them. We guide them toward the resources to enhance that knowledge base and provide them with the positive support required to continue on that behavioral path. I want to utilize some of the theory incorporated in the above circumstances to address indicators of behaviour that manifest themselves in income and independence

Netherlands and gaining some following in Canadian health promotion initiatives. fosters the premise that effective treatment and education in communities such as injection drug users and street workers has more success when guided by a non-judgmental principle.

It has been noted, and with some acclaim, that when there is an attempt to address health safety issues utilizing an abstinence approach, it is inevitably accompanied by a high failure rate. Individuals whose lives are dictated by addiction and whose only source of income and independence

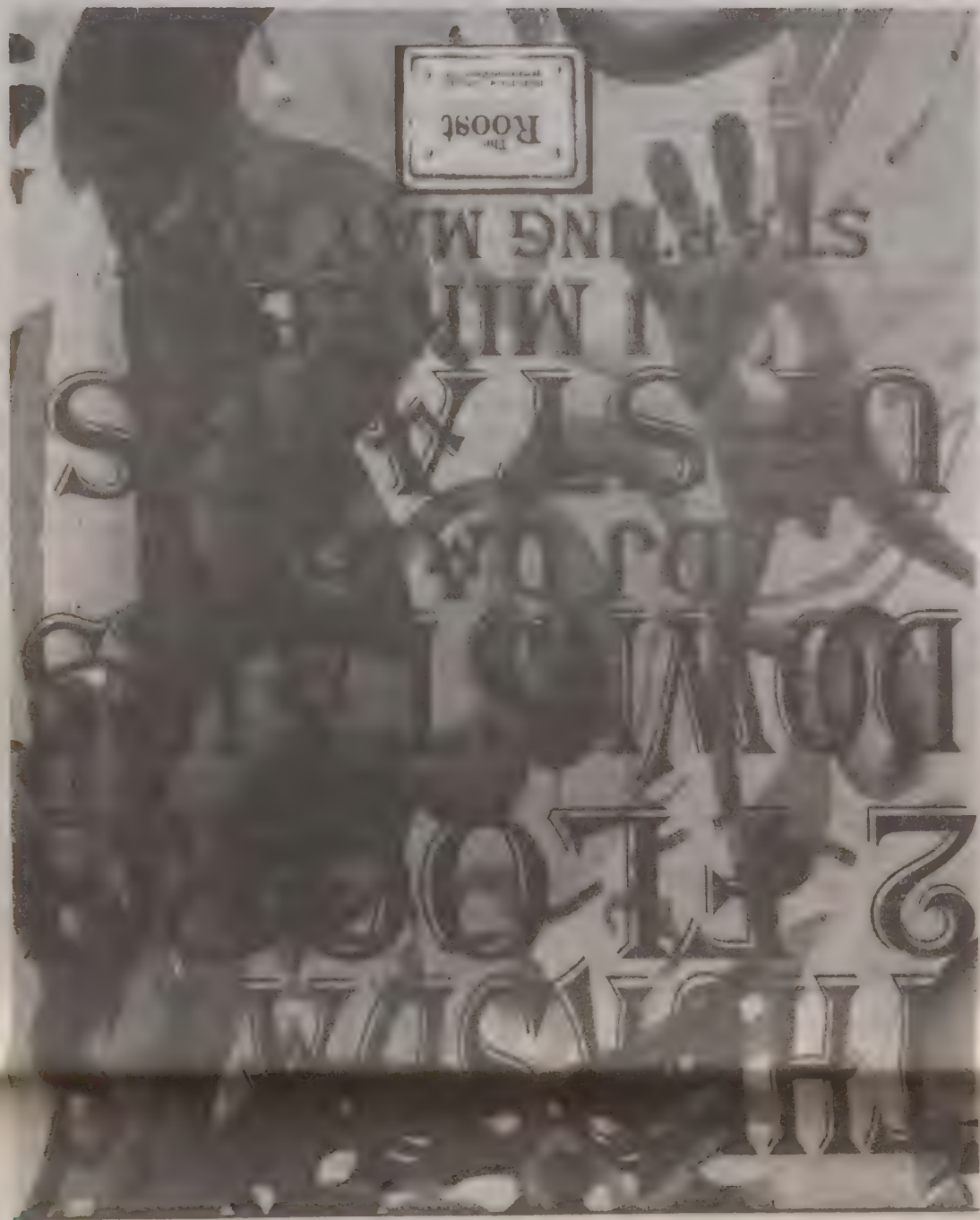
equally risky decision making.

Last evening I attended a presentation by Dr Tom Lipinski on "The Education and Mentoring of Adolescent Males on Male Sexuality". I was struck by the clear lack of reference to and understanding of the differences in development between a male growing up as a heterosexual youth and a male entrenched in a complete and often hostile denial of the realization that they may be developing as a homosexual youth. The implication throughout the presentation was that differences between the two forms of sexuality did not indicate a need for a correspondingly unique approach to their developmental factors. When asked, Dr. Lipinski replied that in his therapy sessions with adult males, homosexual men are given the same materials on development and definition of roles as are heterosexual males. His premise is that male myths are male myths and we all suffer from them. When asked what approaches a heterosexual parent should take in the mentoring of their homosexual son, he indicated that organizations like PFLAG

This is not in my view a harm reduction approach. Dr. Lipinski does not allow for the possibility that homosexual males may require a dramatically different definition of their processes than does the rest of the male population. First off, homosexual males have the added burden of developing within a lifestyle that is surrounded by political and societal barriers, adding a dimension to development that, of itself, separates them from heterosexual males.

Homosexual males have learned to keep secrets, to hide their emotions, to cloak their reactions to life's

Continued on page 16



Greater Edmonton Gay Community Support Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742. E-mail: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 474-0862.

Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrsh@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett

at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet every second Sunday (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at mercury@planet.eon.net, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbigay community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton]

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email: equalalberta@hotmail.com or visit our Website: www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/equal.htm

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 4 leagues: 1) Recreational - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 2) Beach (summer) - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 3) Competitive - contact Geoff at 420-6698; 4) Tournament - Contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email: freetobeball@hotmail.com

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information

line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, and drop-in peer support counselling. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers. Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter

We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the Worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US ! Contact us at nivek@planet.eon.net. Or call Kevin at 455-2353.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Mette at 461-5571, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

M.C.C. Youth Group

Provides a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth, to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god's/goddess' healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. We are meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. If you have any further questions please E-mail Pam at pamjoce@telusplanet.net. Our phone number is 429-2321

N.E.O.N : Needing Each Other Now.

This name seems very appropriate for the youth group not to mention how styling it sounds. N.E.O.N focuses on and takes into consideration everything to make an environment that feels safe and comfortable for youth. Currently N.E.O.N meets every Thursday at Jazzberries (10116 - 124th st) between the hours of 8:00 p.m and 10:00 p.m. Please come and join us!! For more information e-mail Marcia at neonneon@hotmail.com

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged

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The purpose of Womenspace is to foster a positive lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womenspace/>

Regional Organizations

Northern Titans
Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Garry Billeit at (403) 426-6311

Out and Out (O²)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O² Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCB. For information contact Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: plflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

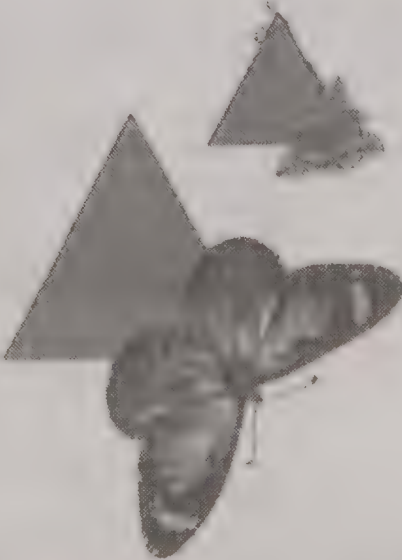
Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or the give your input, phone GLCCB at 488-3234 or email: yuyedim@hotmail.com

Visions - Unitarian Church of

Edmonton (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womenspace



Prince George
GALA North:
To contact Queer North: mail: Box 149 Grande Prairie, AB T8V4Z3
e-mail: pellerin@gprc.ab.ca

Out North,
P.O. Box 2895,
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 2N7.

High Level Gay and Lesbian Support Group
The High Level Support Group offers info on suicide prevention, monthly meetings-providing events, gay organizations, information on a place to meet and free counselling provided by High level mental health for both gay people and parents of gay children. Our web site address is <http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/park/7702/> or write us at po box 3434, High Level, Alta, T0H-1Z0 or call 403-926-3989

Northern Rainbow Youth
A support group for Highschool students. Our email address is nry13_18@hotmail.com and our web page is www.mhcnhey.com/ashcnry any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counsellor. If you want more info yourself then you can call Crystal at (780)790-0775 at work.

Freedom Fort McMurray
A social support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiries into membership please call our Freedom line (780)799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may leave a message any other time. Or you may e-mail us at dakota54@telusplanet.net or mail us at "Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2 or visit our web site at www.telusplanet.net/public/dakota54/index.htm

Becoming Ourselves:



Dreaming A Way Out

By Shawn Mooney

Coming out is a heroic journey. While this process of self-acceptance is life-long, the initial stages of self-recognition, acceptance and disclosure to family and friends are the most difficult and intense.

A client of mine in his mid-twenties—I'll call him James—had an amazing dream about coming out (which he has given me permission to share). Last fall when James had this dream he was beginning to accept his gayness, and not out to his parents. He dreamt:

I tell my mother I am gay; this is in the house where we lived before my parents' divorce. Mother freaks, goes into a hysterical tantrum. I realize there is nothing I can do so I leave the house by the front door, feeling incredibly despondent. Her tantrum draws the attention of neighbors and they overhear her so they know I am gay too. I try not to give a shit about them but I imagine they now think I'm an awful person too. It is a dreary, rainy late afternoon. I plunk myself down in the garage with the door pulled half way down, so I can still breathe the air from outside, now cleansed by the rain, and shield myself from the neighbors' eyes. I feel a lot of self-hatred and desperation as I hear Mother shriek and wail in the house.

Next thing I know, I am up on the roof of the garage. Strangely, there's a tent set up there, but I sit on the gravelly roof, exposed to the rain. And there's a crane operator in his crane right beside the garage, swinging the wrecking ball in a taunting, ominous way - the ball swings close to me, almost hitting me, but I don't feel particularly afraid. I just sit there, depressed about what my revelation to mother has caused, and determined not to let the crane operator see how I feel.

Then my father joins me up on the roof, sits down with me. It seems he is trying to protect me by raising his hand to shelter me from the potential blow of the dark, cold, grey iron wrecking ball. He hands me a brown gift bag. Inside are condoms, a Playgirl magazine, and self-help books. Father says he wants to show me how much he cares, and that this is the only way he knows how at this time. He says that he accepts me no matter what. Together, he says, we'll be able to bring mother around. I am overcome with feelings and I start to cry.

I wake up.

It's all there, isn't it? James's dream condenses the

perils and promise of coming out to others and within oneself.

I don't believe much in heady dream interpretation; analyzing what a dream means in some abstract, intellectual way can drain the juice right out of it. That juice, I maintain, is the pool of feelings evoked by and contained in the dream. Dreams illustrate in a visceral, personal (and sometimes archetypal or transpersonal) way the emotions and yearnings that guide us, the earthy stuff which makes up our souls.

On the interpersonal level, James's dream imagines his parents' reactions to his gayness; his mother freaks, and his father reaches out lovingly. These polar-opposite interactions book-end a solitary, hero's journey. James withdraws into morose solitude after his mother's rejection; he copes with and survives her rampage, the attention of neighbors, the danger of the wrecking ball and, most of all, his own feelings of shame and melancholy. Only then does his father appear, bearing gifts and words of acceptance and love.



The courage we summon up to come out to loved ones is awesome. Not all of us are rejected when we share our queer truth; painfully, too many of us still are. In an important sense, the actual reaction of a parent to our news is beside the point; before taking that big step out of our closet, we need to access the wherewithal to endure the worst-case scenario, the inner conviction that whatever happens we will be okay.

Another way to get into the belly of a dream is to view everything about it, all its characters and emotions and objects, as part of one's own self; on this intrapsychic level, James's dream maps the queer journey from self-hatred, through shame, into self-acceptance.

In real life, James's first reaction to his gayness was rage and self-rejection — like the mother in his dream. He withdraws in the dream from that homophobic inner voice, feeling shame but also discovering that he can withstand the exposure and dodge the wrecking ball. He is not oblivious to the inner turmoil but neither is he destroyed by it.

The messages lesbian and gay folk internalize from society—how wrong and sinful and destructive homosexuality is—are not easily confronted. This part of James's dream reveals an intermediate phase of the coming out journey: acknowledging how we judge and reject ourselves with our own homophobia, alongside a growing capacity to contain and withstand this inner conflict. The wrecking ball inside swings perilously close, but we intuitively know we won't self-destruct altogether.

True self-acceptance emerges when we link up with the nurturing, loving, self-supporting voice within. James's father appears in the dream, and his acceptance and protective actions can be felt as James's own loving kindness towards himself. We all have this nurturing inner voice; healing any wound — including the pain of coming out — is about fostering this dialogue. James cries, relinquishing his stoic response to the surrounding condemnation, accepted by this loving part of himself. Together, this intrapsychic voice says, they can "bring mother around"; when we are kind and gentle and protective towards ourselves, we grow stronger and more able to deal with the homophobic judgments in our own psyches and from the people in our world. We create safe space within; we acknowledge and express our true feelings.

In relating to others and ourselves we queer folk risk rejection and condemnation at every turn. Coming out, therefore, takes a hell of a lot of nerve. James's dream reminds me that the root of the word "courage" is the French word meaning, "heart": the most heroic and important part of the journey is the act of loving ourselves along the way.

(A former Edmontonian, Shawn Mooney is now a psychotherapist in private practice in Toronto. Watch for Shawn's return to Edmonton in August 1999, when he'll be setting up his practice locally. You can reach Shawn at shawn.mooney@sympatico.ca. Web: www3.sympatico.ca/shawn.mooney.)

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#04



Pride Video

Harm Reduction Model

Continued from page 11

circumstances in a variety of ways, all intended to keep a lid on their true identity.

There has not been an open invitation to the majority of homosexual adolescents to express their true emotions or to be forthcoming in their hopes, desires, and expectations for future happiness and fulfillment. In fact, homosexual adolescents have every reason to believe that much of their development into adults is best kept completely separate and apart from what is perceived to be their true identity and character.

Dr Lipinski calls for adult males to take on the role of mentor to our adolescents. He indicates that for men to do this they must first come to an understanding of who they are, how they developed, what steps they must take as individuals to overcome the stereotyping that has shadowed the male for most of time and must learn to recognize their own emotional development as a natural process in the completeness of the male model.

It would seem to me that a harm reduction approach when mentoring homosexual adolescents would include some mechanism that allows these young males to explore their emotions and physical reactions openly and with acceptance of who they are. This is not the typical mentoring role taken on by the "average" adult male. This is not an area in which the majority of adult males have a comfort level allowing them to freely express an open and positive approach in

dealing with the uniqueness of homosexual emotions.

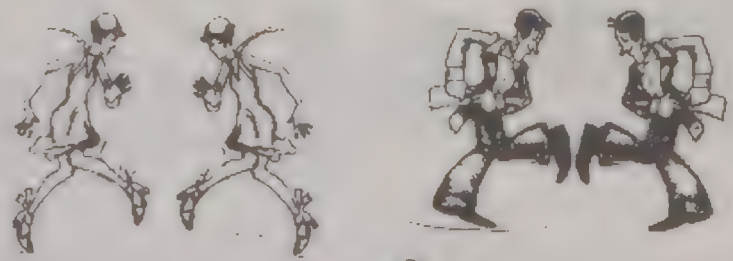
All of this brings us to the question. We are calling on the adult male to incorporate a harm reduction model by mentoring our adolescent males in the hope of giving them a factual and an emotional base from which to pattern their development. Who are we utilizing as mentors for our homosexual adolescent male? Who is providing a role model, in the family setting, on whom the developing homosexual adolescent male can base his principles of wellness and self-esteem?

These questions have some impact on our work at ANE. Our mandate is health promotion and the promoting of principles that reduce the risk in behaviours that affect sexual health. All youth have difficulties at a developmental level. All youth have some difficulties with esteem and acceptance issues. An adult intervening on behalf of youth in these areas can effectively apply the principles of harm reduction.

Heterosexual youth, for the most part, have this added opportunity of learning these principles from a parent or some person acting in that capacity.

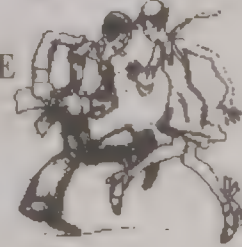
A homosexual youth, for the most part, does not.

In closing, it has to be acknowledged that there are many adolescent males who identify themselves as being bisexual and whose issues are similar to that of the homosexual adolescent. If there is any compensation to these individuals, it would be that there is an opportunity in their development to get accurate and positive information for part of their experiences.



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WASSY

I thought this was very interesting. Perhaps we can somehow find out the percentage of the take from the very successful Black and White Affair.

Bob Mills

Taken for an AIDS Ride

The paltry percentages of event revenues going to charity are causing some groups to withdraw support

By Advocate staff

Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride has attracted some publicity, but not the kind organizers would like. Ten AIDS service groups in San Antonio have opted out of this year's AIDS ride after only 15%—\$417,000—of the \$2.9 million raised in the inaugural ride in October was distributed to the 40 benefiting agencies. "We know we can do better than 15% if we had control over [the event] ourselves," said Byron C. Trott, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of San Antonio. The rest of the money raised was used to pay ride expenses, including a \$280,000 fee to event organizers—Los Angeles based Pallotta TeamWorks.

The other four rides produced by Pallotta typically show a return of anywhere from 50% to 62% of the total raised. According to AIDS rides national director Chris Cole, who blamed poor rider turnout—702 riders showed up when the budget planned on 2,100—for the disappointing first-time outing in Texas. "I think we're well on track for Texas AIDS Ride 2, and the only way it's going to remain on track is for the community to come out and support the ride," Cole said.

Meanwhile, the AIDS ride hasn't panned out in Wisconsin either. Wisconsin bicyclists raised \$806,000 for the 1998 AIDS ride, but the sponsoring agencies expect to get no more than \$52,000, or 6.5%, of the event's revenues. Ride

expenses and fees paid to Pallotta TeamWorks ate up the rest, the agencies said. So far they have received \$12,000 from the Wisconsin AIDS Ride, a 500-mile bike trip. The agencies had fronted \$300,000 in seed money to the firm, which is refundable when the agencies decide not to sponsor another ride. The sponsors are backing a less costly version of the six-day Twin Cities-Wisconsin-Chicago ride this July in hopes of turning things around. "We were very surprised and disappointed at the result," said Doug Nelson, executive director of the Milwaukee-based AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the largest sponsoring agency. "Unless it's reduced to a 50-50 split at a minimum, we'll drop out" after 1999.

The seven sponsoring agencies had expectations of splitting nearly \$1 million in net proceeds. That was based on projections from Pallotta that revenue would top \$2 million from a projected 600 Wisconsin bikers. In the end, pedalers numbered fewer than half that, due in part to what agencies saw as errors in recruiting strategies and ride planning. The resource center and other sponsors said they signed on for a second year before getting a chance to learn the bad news on last summer's ride. The results in Wisconsin were the worst of any of Pallotta's AIDS rides, said Cole. He offered no apologies for the Wisconsin ride.

Pallotta TeamWorks faced similar criticism in 1996 when only 17% of the money raised in the Philadelphia-D.C. AIDS Ride went to AIDS groups.

Come Out through Volleyball

By Andrew Schuster

JP walks closer to the door. Tentatively, he reaches for the door handle. His heart is pounding. His breathing is rapid. His mind is racing with wild thoughts. Hesitating, he pictures in his mind a sea of men watching him as he enters. Each one is looking at him, looking through him. The tension is almost unbearable. He considers turning back and going home. This is what he did last week faced with the same situation.

With a final surge of courage, he opens the door and steps inside. Initially, nobody really notices him as he enters. The people inside are preoccupied with getting themselves organized for the first volleyball game of the evening. From somewhere a voice calls out asking him to join their team. They need another player. JP begins to play alongside everybody else.

Suddenly he is just another member of the group. He asks himself, "Can this be real? What was I so worked up about?"

JP only recently began to accept the fact that he is gay. He knew about the gay bars for years but never actually went to one until several months ago. Over the next few weeks, he kept going just to watch the boys. Eventually he met somebody, Arnoldi. They went out on a date. On the date, they talked and shared stories. Eventually, JP shared his concern. Being gay meant he was destined to hang out at dark bars waiting to find a trick for the night. His new friend assured him that there are many other community activities for gay people in Edmonton.

There are ongoing social activities such as movie and coffee nights. There are ongoing sporting activities such as volleyball, curling, bowling, cycling and inline skating. There are yearly activities such as skiing and camping trips. Often groups will plan impromptu ice skating, touch football or baseball games. He simply had to check out the Times 10 community resources

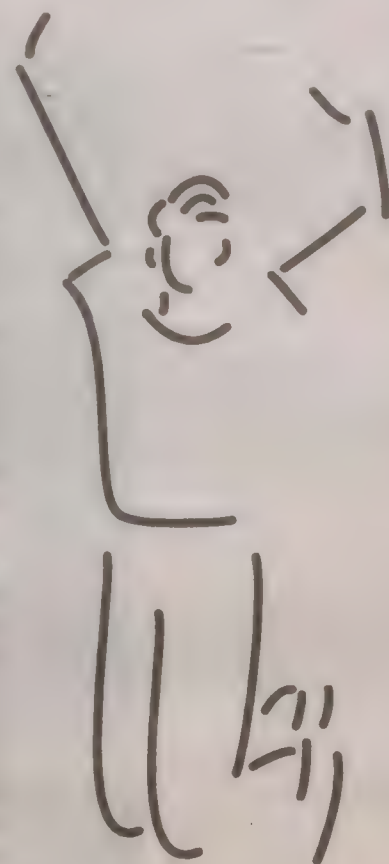
section to get an idea of all the options. Get involved with the community.

JP played volleyball in high school. Playing again appealed to him but he wasn't sure about playing with an entire group of sissy queens. Nonetheless, he decided to give it a try. If he didn't like it he could just stop going. Still unsure that this was the right decision, he called the prescribed information line to get details. Then he planned to attend the next volleyball night even though apprehension filled him.

JP's story is not unique or entirely fictitious. I personally know of numerous people who came out with the support of the social and sporting networks in Edmonton. If you yourself, or somebody you know, is coming out and you want to take that next step, come on out. Know that the fears, the apprehension and the preconceptions are common. Others will understand. JP is out there now playing volleyball. He can be himself in a public place. He has met many new friends. He laughs. He looks forward to volleyball each week. He's come out through volleyball.

If you or one of your friends is interested in playing beach volleyball, come on out Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. at Garneau

Courts (110 St/84 Ave) starting May 16, 1999. Recreation volleyball continues Tuesdays at McDougall School (107 St/109 Ave) from 6 to 8 p.m. Call Rick at 474-6785 for details.



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Growing Up in an Alcoholic Home

Just carrying a normal work load was never good enough. You had to do more to avoid the wrath of the alcoholic.

5. Have you had problems with your own compulsive behavior? Without knowing it, you probably developed a pattern in childhood of approaching everything "alcoholically."

6. Do you have a need for perfection? One little slip up and the alcoholic might explode into anger. That deep-seeded fear can carry over into adulthood.

7. Are you uneasy when your life is going smoothly, continually anticipating problems? The alcoholic always sabotaged the "good times" like holidays, birthdays, vacations, etc. Things never turned out the way they were planned.

8. Do you feel more alive in the midst of a crisis? People can become addicted to excitement. They find "normal" people and situations boring.

9. Do you still feel responsible for others, as you did for the problem drinker in your life? There's always that nagging feeling that you were somehow responsible for the alcoholic's drinking. Maybe if you had done something differently...

10. Do you care for others easily, yet find it difficult to care for yourself? You are comfortable in the "caretaker" role, but extremely uncomfortable doing things for yourself, like spending money on something just for you.

11. Do you isolate yourself from other people? If they get too close, they may find out your "secrets."

12. Do you respond with fear to authority figures and angry people? The authority figures in your childhood were probably abusive. You expect the same from all authority figures. When the alcoholic became angry, it usually meant something extreme was about to happen.

13. Do you feel that individuals and society in general are taking some form of abuse: verbal or otherwise.

3. Do you fear criticism? In childhood, "criticism" often was accompanied by "overachieving" by everybody around you.

2. Do you fail to recognize your accomplishments? What seems routine to you might be considered "overachieving" by everybody around you.

1. Do you constantly seek approval and affirmation? It may be because you don't really know what "normal" is — you have to try to figure it out from the actions and reactions of others.

4. Do you overexert yourself? The wording of these questions offer an insight into some ways children are effected by growing up in a alcoholic home, even years after the reach adulthood.

On the official Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters website, there is a list of questions entitled, "Did you grow up in an alcoholic home?"

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advantage of you? You grew up with someone who was an expert at controlling and manipulating everyone around them. Trust is not something that comes naturally.

14. Do you have trouble with intimate relationships? Probably the only "love" that you saw demonstrated in childhood was the love the alcoholic had for the bottle.

15. Do you confuse pity with love, as you did with the problem drinker? You may be attracted to people who "need" you or people you know that you can "fix."

16. Do you attract and/or seek people who tend to be compulsive and abusive? Again, normal people bore you and you don't understand them. You are more comfortable around people who you can relate to and won't judge you.

17. Do you cling to relationships because you are afraid of being alone? It may be from your deep-seeded fear of abandonment. One way or the other, your alcoholic parent emotionally or physically abandoned you for the bottle.

18. Do you mistrust your own feelings and the feelings expressed by others? How many times have you heard, "I'm sorry. It won't happen again." But it did.

19. Do you find it difficult to identify and express your emotions? You were told that it was not okay to cry. You were never allowed to be angry and, if you were, you faced serious consequences or ridicule.

20. Do you think parental drinking may have affected you? Not everyone who drinks is an alcoholic. But it would be extremely difficult to grow up around excessive drinking and not be somehow effected.

If you answered yes to some of these questions, chances are you have been effected more than you may realize by the family disease of alcoholism.

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Let me start out by saying that I don't know for sure if this cd will ever make itself available for public consumption, other than by givaway, dj promo, etc. bla bla bla, but you probably could get one by writing them or sending an email via their website.

That being said, what I'm going to do is write of the label and babble about some of the bands on Interdimensional Industries.

Formed just over a year ago in Calgary,

Interdimensional was created as a means for local talent in the underground/electro/industrial/goth/metal genres to get their shit out and make it available to the average Dick & Jane. They are wonderfully exploring styles of music that are unfortunately overlooked by so many labels here in Alberta. (Shame on you!)

Beginning their sonic assault 13 years ago in Victoria, B.C., Calgary's "Cryptomnesia" start off this wonderful disc with the track "Hunting the wounded dove". A very agro-in your face industrial track that is sure to please any rivethead stomping around madly on the dance floor. While the production could be polished more, the song has an immense power to it that has me pressing repeat on my disc player. Fans of Download & Frontline Assembly should truly get off on this. Watch for a full release entitled "Hypnerotomachia" due out this summer.

Next on the plate, E-towns "Voice Industrie" finally have something new out for us. I've been waiting for this for some kinda long time. Of the 2 tracks that V.I. have on this album is an older one, but it has long been one of my faves. The brand spanking new remix of "Sterility" gives a hint to the direction that Voice Industrie is now embarking on. Very Underworld influenced, this new version of "Sterility" is sure to become a club favorite. Watch for a new V.I. album this summer. The working title is "Transmission".

Now here is a surprise, when Shane gave this cd to me I noticed a band I hadn't heard of before. "Incultus". Very dreamy, ambient electro music that I think would be wonderful to enjoy sexual relations to. I can't really say why, but it just kinda makes my heart go pitter pat, and I just have to take the rest from there. Look for their debut disc "Sunrise" out later this year.

And finally we have Edmontons "Psychokinetic Disrupter". Formed by Shane Handford & Craig Lemal, PKD are a symphony for the apocalypse. Hard to put a handle on them, but included here is my personal fave "Kalpa". I don't know what it is but I love the sound of a female voice over electronic music. Perhaps it's the clash of something pure and natural vs. the inhumanity and coldness of a keyboard and sequencer. A very standup track.

Anyhoo, check out these releases off Interdimensional Industries, and support home grown electronic talent. Also, if you can't find these check out "A Consortium Of Sonic Emanations", also out by Interdimensional.

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Well, til next month

Hugs and kisses, welts and wishes

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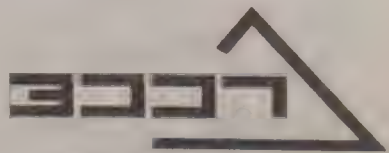
To: Times .10 Publications Society

Thank you for featuring Womonspace Social and Recreational Society in your group profiles published in the April, 1999 issue of Times .10. The Womonspace board is concerned, however, that the information presented is out of date and may have misled your readers. Our dances have not been held at Hazeldean for over a year. Our next dance will be on May 15th at Inglewood Hall, 12515-116 Avenue. Also, we are not co-hosting the Pride dance with GLCCE this year.

We always appreciate accurate coverage for our organization. Please do not hesitate to contact us any time you would like to provide your readers with more information about Womonspace. Our phone number is 482-1794.

Sincerely,
Lindy Pratch
For Womonspace Board of Directors

News From GLCCE



What?

GLCCE is for women too?

mean? Is there nothing going on at GLCCE? No, this is not the case. GLCCE is that we don't want to socialize with men? Is it our laissez-faire attitude?

Dangly bits—that's all that gay men really have that you don't. Is that really a reason to alienate yourself from the Community Centre? Our community is already marginalized from "mainstream" society. We don't need to work at other ways of segregating ourselves internally. We should be able to work together—as one big happy family. Why don't we look at ways of working together through GLCCE?

As we bat around ideas about what to write this month on the general topic of "Women in GLCCE" (or the lack thereof), the question always comes up, "Why aren't there more women involved in GLCCE?" An interesting question to ask. We could go on and on talking about all the possible reasons women aren't involved in GLCCE... "we don't have a babysitter"... "there's nothing for my age group"... but where will that get us? We've both heard the standing rumor that GLCCE is male dominated, most recently in the form... "All I hear about GLCCE is tag this tag that...there's nothing for ME at GLCCE". What does that really

Ways to Bore Others

Everyone is bored, upset, or depressed now and then. That's of no particular significance. It's only when boredom or depression becomes a style of life that you have to get off your butt. There is nothing more uninteresting than a bunch of people standing around talking about how bored they are—which often ends up with them agreeing to go out and do something stupid.

Here is a list of the most boring things you can do:

1. Run yourself down. Tell yourself and others how worthless and rotten you are.
2. Similarly, when people ask you how you feel, tell them the details of your rottenness.
3. Tell people you're horny.
4. Boast about things that everybody knows you haven't done.
5. Watch more than an hour and a half of TV a day. Have you noticed? The more you watch, the more bored you get?
6. Masturbate not because you enjoy it, but because you have nothing else to do. Have you discovered that if you feel guilty, you hardly enjoy it at all?
7. Talk about only one subject (sports, girls, boys, etc.). It's OK to have one main interest, but if that's all you talk about, people won't listen.
8. Come across as Pollyannish (oh, everything is wonderful!); or cynical and sarcastic.
9. Relentlessly tell people you're tired.
10. Talk too much. It's not as boring to talk too little as endlessly of future plans that usually don't pan out.
28. Complain that there's nothing to do, or talk ungrateful slob the rest are.
27. Announce how self-sacrificing you are and what
26. Trust no one; or trust everybody.
25. Spoil other people's stories (because you've said, thought, heard it before)
24. Lead an unexamined life.
23. Almost never tolerate being alone at times.
22. Relieve tension mainly with drugs or alcohol.
21. Almost always be serious and humorous; or almost never be serious, and kid around all the time.
20. Nearly always wait to be asked; hardly ever ask.
19. Be a gossip. (Super boring.)
18. Persistently analyze the motives of everyone's behavior.
17. Be stingy. You don't want to do the most interesting things because "you can't afford it." It will be forever before you can afford it.
16. Do NOT be open to new experiences. It's fake humility.
15. Begin your approach to people by saying, "I don't want to trouble you (bore you) by taking up too much of your time." It's fake humility.
14. Be super-dependent on what other people think of you. They get the message that they can't talk frankly with you.
13. Relate to a person without ever risking being intimate (which also means risking rejection).
12. Be paranoid and suspicious of everyone's motives. You're always thinking: "What do you want from me?"
11. Complain a lot (ugh!).

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we don't know what needs fixing. Feel free to call the Centre, share your ideas, voice your opinion. Then, get your ass down here and volunteer.

For example, GLCCE is hosting our annual Garage sale Saturday May 15th in our parking lot starting at 9:00 a.m. Of course it's not in a garage, nor are we selling garages, but if you have any sellable items you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Centre. Our office is open Monday to Friday 9-noon and evenings 7-10. This is also a prime opportunity to come down and volunteer (hint hint). Proceeds raised will support GLCCE endeavors. Call GLCCE at 488-3234 or stop by (Suite 103, 10612-124 St) for more information.

Christa Farrell, Co-Chair
Shannon McEwen, Director
Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton

What the heck is happening at the ANE anyway?

By Sherry McKibben, Executive Director

I am hearing a lot conversation in the gay community about the current state of changes at ANE. Comments I hear are: "ANE is withdrawing services from the gay community". "We are hiring aboriginal workers." "We don't want to work with the gay community anymore and if we don't, then we should give GLCCE or some other group the money we had to serve the gay community." and other such statements.

I want to try to address these issues and talk about the changes at ANE and how they will impact the gay community.

To begin, I want to develop some context for the changes which are occurring at ANE; this is another way of saying that there have been many changes to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and ANE is changing as a consequence. This is not new information but it has impacted the AIDS Network. During this past year, the board and staff, with much help from others in the communities we work with, have been thinking through how the AIDS Network needs to function to accommodate the changes.

Item One: Improved treatment has changed life expectancy for HIV+ people; this means that most people who are HIV+ require 'support services' primarily for critical periods in the course of the disease. Of course, it is a point of discussion about how much is needed exactly at what points in time, but, in general, it is our experience that HIV+ people will need assistance most at time of diagnosis and at points of very ill health, particularly when palliative care is needed. Assistance may also be needed at other points of crisis (more about this later).

Item Two: In addition to gay men being diagnosed as HIV+, other at risk populations now

include aboriginal populations, women, youth and others. People affected by HIV are generally marginalized populations who are vulnerable to HIV because they have addiction issues, are injection drug users, are incarcerated or have mental health problems. This means where previously the AIDS Network could focus their education on one community we now have five or more distinct groups of people to engage in the delivery of support services and health promotion material. Moreover, each of these distinct groups presents unique challenges vis a vis accessibility and lifestyle.

Item Three: The amount of funding which AIDS Network is receiving from the provincial and federal governments in support of programming has decreased over the years. This, of course, raises many other issues which need to be addressed as well.

During the past year, the Board and staff in conjunction with community members and volunteers undertook a strategic planning process. Out of that process came a number of decisions. The first and perhaps most important in terms of this conversation is that the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society will serve all people who are HIV+ and who are at risk. The second significant decision was to re-emphasize our commitment to working collaboratively with community groups. This later decision emphasizes the principle of sustainability which AIDS service organizations in Alberta have been exploring; this principle looks towards developing programs with existing services with the hope that those capacities are self renewing (sustainable). For example, if we teach the staff at Operations Friendship the dynamics of working with HIV+ people, they then can continue to provide the services, requiring only critical support from us.

In developing programming based on the decisions coming out of that strategic planning process, we have established a number of principles

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about how we intent to work. Indeed, it might be fair to say we must work collaboratively if we are going to equally divide our scarce resources between the many competing communities who need HIV related health promotion. In our Health Promotion workplan, we identify the following as populations with whom we intent to work:

- ❖ HIV+ people – currently most HIV+ people are gay men but the demographics are changing quickly and gay men do not comprise the majority of the AIDS Network's client population at this time,
- ❖ The gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community,
- ❖ Aboriginal community,
- ❖ Intravenous drug users,
- ❖ At-risk youth (with particular attention to gay youth), and
- ❖ Women.

We also identify clearly that with 3 core staff positions divided equally between 'support' service and health promotion, we need to be very deliberate in how we work. Therefore we do only HIV specific work and ask other organizations to work collaboratively with us to continue to deliver related services.

On the support side, this means not duplicating existing community services for HIV+ people e.g. food banks and clothing exchanges. It also means assisting other organizations who deliver services to identified populations (for example women and the aboriginal community) to develop the necessary skills to continue to provide those same services to HIV+ people. Of course, we also provide direct service but we cannot deliver all the social service needs or counseling needs for all HIV+ people; therefore, we provide those critical pieces not available elsewhere and encourage existing community organizations to continue to deliver the services they already deliver to HIV+ people. Where those services do not exist – and one could argue services are not as accessible for the gay and lesbian population – our task is to work with the relevant organization to make those services assessable or to work with groups to develop appropriate services.

For example, we have determined that there are very few services available for same sex spousal abuse. Where in Edmonton can

Continued on page 26

Speaking Of Normal

by Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW

(edited by Gordon Portman)
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Couples' Talk' about SEX

In my previous column I talked about the frequency and quality of genital sex for lesbian and other couples ... about the many influences on our sexual lives ... and about the need to reach a point where one's sexual relationships are defined by you, working for you, and comfortable to you - you and your partner, that is, and no-one else.

It's a topic I've been running into a lot lately. For example: at the "Couples Talk" workshop I facilitated recently, where much of the discussion centered around similar issues, a common comment was something like this: "Whenever we make love, we always say 'Why don't we do this more often?' It's so wonderful!" a comment made in reference both to "taunchy, reaching the Big O" sex or "slow, languid, romantic, making love. Couples also talked about the special bonding that happens during sex with a loving partner, but acknowledged that sometimes it's hard to get talking about sex in any detail. Ultimately, the participating couples were able to admit to wanting help managing these conversations. It was, in many ways, an interesting and very enlightening session ...

... particularly when viewed alongside another conversation I had. A few weeks ago, my partner and I joined two other couples for a wonderful evening celebrating each of our tenth anniversaries. Ours was in January, one couple's was the next day, one happens in July. There were two male couples and one female couple. The most memorable part of the evening (other than the lemon shortbread with lemon curd, whipped cream and strawberries on black currant coulis, a wee piece of ecstasy right there on my plate) was the sharing of what we had to say about having been together for ten years.

Some of the things we mentioned: the need for compromise, for buckets of give and take, for talking and talking and talking and then talking some more, for humour, and for remembering that love is a verb and that showing love in ways that are meaningful to partners is essential. We also talked about ways in which we learn when is a good time to ignore issues and when it's not, when to be patient and when to challenge, and when

we need private time to be together as a couple (cheap dinner out, coffee, hot tub, whatever works) without all the influences of "the outside world". We reminded ourselves, and each other, to remember that a relationship takes work, and that at times, 'this too shall pass' can be a helpful thought.

And then there were the discussions of "relationship management techniques" - or, to put it another way, "ways to make it work". One couple never goes to bed angry, another argues only in certain parts of the house only (kitchen, living room). There's the idea of making a point to have fun, together as a couple and with friends, and the idea of learning from past mistakes in relationships and doing things differently. In short, we covered all sorts of ways of dealing with all sorts of stresses, but overall there seemed to be a sense of, and a level of comfort with, being responsible for the health of the couple and for not taking that for granted.

The entire time, though, throughout a conversation that ranged over any number of subjects, there was no mention whatsoever of sex.

I'm not suggesting for a moment that none of us there had sexual issues in their relationship, or that we were all enjoying perfectly healthy, mutually and consistently satisfying sexual lives. I am suggesting, as I did last time, that sometimes we all need something to get us started talking about this profoundly important subject: sometimes we feel we need permission, or that we need to feel safe, sometimes we just need to feel less shy, or inhibited.

At the Couples Talk workshop, the participants found the following questionnaire to be really useful in doing just that. It got them thinking about changes to their relationships that had occurred, changes that were desired, and those that hadn't yet been encountered.

In the workshop, each partner spent some time completing these questions, and then the partners exchanged papers and compared answers. Some of the couples were pretty new, others had been together for many years, yet they all really seemed to like the questions. Try it yourself and see what you can learn.

A variation would be to do it for yourself, then do one in which you guess your partner's answers, and then compare those.

There are lots of ways to explore this questionnaire and what it tells you, and lots of questions that could be included, but these worked well to get the conversation going safely. But however you choose to get started, the point is to

start, first talking and listening, and then celebrating what's there to be celebrated.

Talking about sex

In relation to each question, indicate where you generally are NOW with an "N". Then, mark where you would like to be with a "W".

Example:
My sexual relationship is always fabulous. 0 N W 100

Do you have sex as often as you would like? 0 100

Are you pleased by the quality of the sex that you have with your partner? 0 100

Are you satisfied with the frequency with which you initiate sex? 0 100

Are you easily able to discuss your sexual relationship with your partner? 0 100

How strongly do you think that experiences

of sex, abuse, assault, incest are impacting you sexually now? 0 100

Would you like more variety (technique, setting, timing)? 0 100

Is the level of non-sexual affectionate touch sufficient for you? 0 100

Are you able to address safer sex issues and act on them as needed? 0 100

10. Are you effectively dealing with physical/emotional challenges to your sexual relationship? 0 100

Is the degree of sexual fidelity in your relationship acceptable to you? 0 100

How strongly are your religious beliefs, customs, cultural beliefs, family habits, community and political atmosphere impacting your sexual behavior now? 0 100

All opinions are those of the writer only. They are not intended to replace consultation with a registered, accredited professional regarding your own particular situation. Any identifying information is changed to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those involved.

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The Truth is Out There.....:)

Sorry Pops

The old gent was backing his Rolls into the last available parking space when a zippy red sports car whipped in behind him to take the spot.

The young driver jumped out and said: "Sorry Pops, but you've got to be young and smart to do that."

The old man ignored the remark and kept reversing until the Rolls had crunched the sports car into a crumpled heap.

"Sorry son, you've got to be old and rich to do that!"

The Pastors Card

A new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Finally, he took out his card, wrote on the back "Revelation 3:20" and stuck it in the door.

The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was notation "Genesis 3:10".

Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."

Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked."

Redneck Joke

A guy in a bar leans over to the guy next to him and says, "Wanna hear a 'redneck' joke?" The guy next to him replies, "Before you tell that joke you should know something. I'm 6' tall, 200 lbs.. and a redneck. The guy sitting next to me is 6'2", 225 lbs.. and a redneck. The fella next to him is 6'5", 250 lbs.. and a redneck. Do you still want to tell that joke?" The first guy says, "Nah. I don't want to

have to explain it three times."

Bridge To Hawaii

A man was walking along a California beach and stumbled across an old lamp. He picked it up and rubbed it and out popped a genie.

The genie said "OK, OK. You released me from the lamp, blah blah blah. This is the fourth time this month and I'm getting a little sick of these wishes so you can forget about three. You only get one wish!" The man sat and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii but

said, 'I've had four lovers and broke up with each of them. My lovers always said that I don't care and that I'm insensitive. So, I wish that I could understand men. Get to know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment. Know why they're crying, know what they really want when they say 'nothing'. Know how to make them truly happy...."

The genie said, "You want that bridge two lanes or four?"

Tax Facts (U.S. but applies to Alberta)

Your Tax Dollars...

The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, they would stretch 28 times around the earth.

Nearly 300,000 trees are cut down yearly to produce the paper for all the IRS forms and instructions.

American taxpayers spend \$200 billion and 5.4 billion hours working to comply with federal taxes each year, more than it takes to produce every car, truck, and van in the United States.

The IRS employs 114,000 people; that's twice as many as the CIA and five times more than the FBI.

60% of taxpayers must hire a professional to get through their own return.

Taxes eat up 56.2% of the average family's income; that's more than for food, clothing and shelter combined.

Deer Hunting (Mike is that you?)

Two blonde hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. Another hunter approached pulling his along too. "Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something...

but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground. After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah, but we're getting farther from the truck," the other added.

Ooooo... how gross...

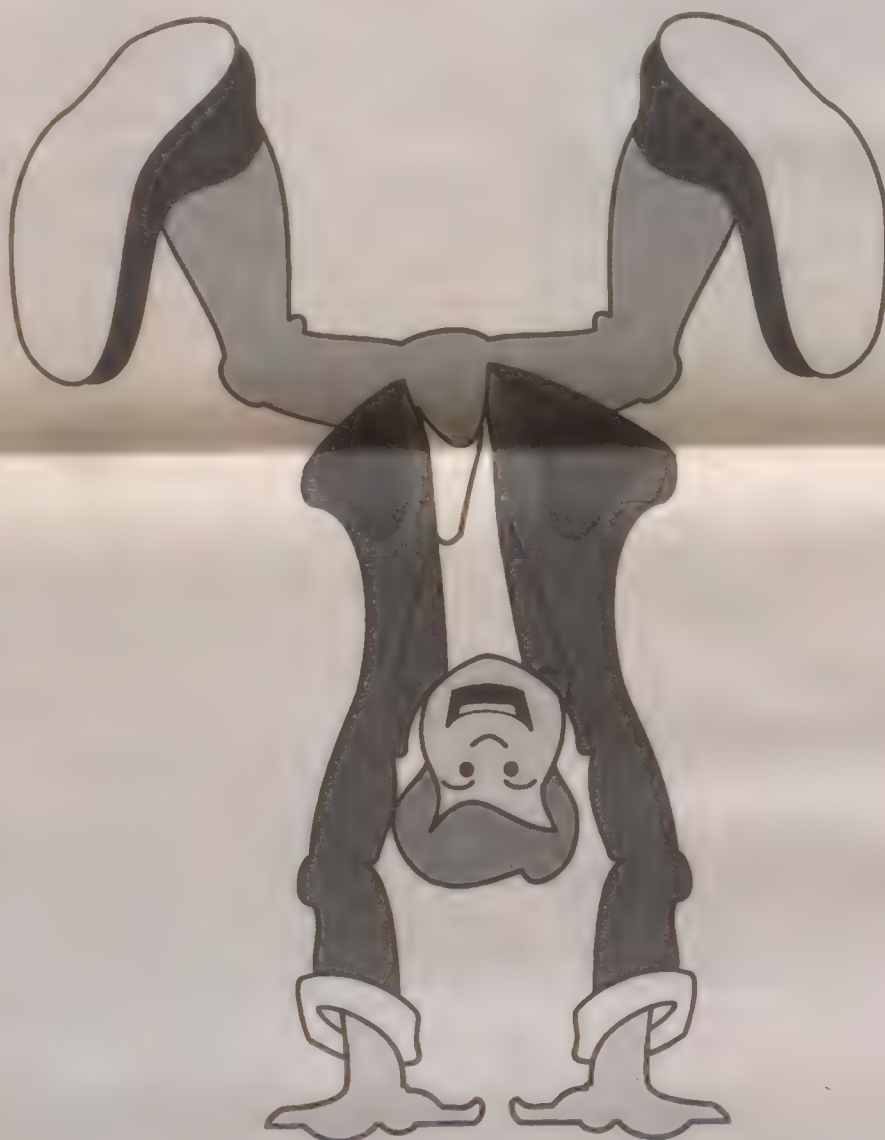
An attorney went into a bar for a Martini and found himself beside a scruffy-looking drunk who kept mumbling and studying something in his hand. He leaned closer while the drunk held the tiny object up to the light, slurring, "Well, it looks plastic." Then he rolled it between his fingers, adding, "But it feels like rubber."

Curious, the attorney asked, "What do you have there?"

The drunk replied, "I don't know, but it looks like plastic and feels like rubber."

The attorney responded, "Let me take a look."

So the drunk handed it over and the lawyer rolled between his thumb and fingers, then examined it closely by sniffing and licking it. "Yeah, it does look like plastic and feel like rubber, has no significant smell or taste, I sure don't know what it is.



I'm scared to fly and I get very seasick.

Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there to visit?"

The genie laughed and said, "That's impossible. Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete...how much steel!! No-think of another wish."

The man said OK and tried to think of a really good wish. Finally, he

The Gettysburg address is 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is 1,337 words, and the Holy Bible is only 773,000 [I don't know what version the author was referring to] words. However, the tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913, to 7 million words today.

There are at least 480 different tax forms, each with many pages of instructions.

Even the easiest form, the 1040E has 33 pages in instructions, and all in fine print.

Where did you get it?" The drunk replied, "Out of my nose."

Take This Phone and...

An old Jewish man is talking long-distance to California when all of a sudden he gets cut off. He hollers, "Operator, gift me beck the party!" She says, "I'm sorry sir, you'll have to make the call all over again." He says, "Operator, ya know vat? Take da telephone and shove it in you-know-vere!" And he hangs up.

Two days later he opens the door and there are two big, strapping guys standing there who say, "We came to take your telephone out." He says, "Vy?"

They say, "Because you insulted Operator 28 two days ago. But if you'd like to call up and apologize, we'll leave the telephone here." He says, "Vait a minute, vat's da rush, vat's da hurry?" He goes to the telephone and dials, "Hello? Get me Operator 28. Hello, Operator 28? Remember me? Two days ago I insulted you? I told you to take da telephone and shove it in you-know-vere?" She says, "Yes?"

He says, "Vell, get ready — dey're bringin' it to ya!"

Aging (Walter's Favourite)

Middle age hasn't affected me. I still enjoy going to a happening place and staying there until they turn out the lights and I'm the only one left. Last night, it was Costco.

Daddy, what is sex?

An 8-year-old girl went to her dad, who was working in the yard and asked him, "Daddy, what is sex?"

The father was surprised that she would ask such a question, but decided that if she's old enough to know to ask the question, then she's old enough to get a straight answer. Stealing himself to leave nothing out, he proceeded to tell her all about human reproduction and the joys and responsibilities of intercourse. When he finished explaining, the little girl was looking at him with her mouth hanging open, eyes wide in amazement.

Seeing the look on her face, the father asked her, "Why did you ask this question, honey?"

The little girl replied, "Mom says that dinner will be ready in just a couple of sex."

Iowa Man In Arkansas

A guy walks into a bar in Arkansas and orders a white wine. Everybody sitting around the bar looks up, surprised, and the bartender looks around and says, "You ain't from around here, are ya? Where ya from, boy?" The guy says, "I'm from Iowa." The bartender asks, "What the heck you do in Iowa?" The guy responds, "I'm a taxidermist." The bartender asks, "A taxidermist? Now just what the heck is a taxidermist?" The guy says nervously, "I mount animals." The bartender grins and shouts out to the whole bar, "It's okay boys, he's one of us!"

How did it happen?



"How Did It Happen?" the doctor asked the middle-aged farmhand as he set the man's broken leg.

"Well, doc, 25 years ago ..."

"Never mind the past. Tell me how you broke your leg this morning."

"Like I was saying... 25 years ago, when I first started working on the farm, I was a strapping young fellow, that night, right after I'd gone to bed, the farmer's son came into my room. He asked me if there was anything I wanted. I said, 'No, everything is fine.' 'Are you sure?' he asked. 'I'm sure,' I said. 'Isn't there anything I can do for you?' he wanted to know. 'I reckon not,' I replied. 'Excuse me,' said the doctor, 'What does this story have to do with your leg?'"

"Well, this morning," the farmhand explained, "when it dawned on me what he meant, I fell off the roof!"

Unused? (Jay's favourite)

A lover arriving home after a shopping trip, was horrified to find his man in bed with a young, lovely twinkie. Just as he was about to storm out of the house, his lover stopped him with these words: "Before you leave, I want you to hear how this all came about."

"Driving home, I saw this young man, looking poor and tired, I offered him a ride. He was hungry, so I brought him home and fed him some of the roast you had forgotten about in the refrigerator. His shoes were worn-out so I gave him a pair of your shoes that you didn't wear because they were out of style. He was cold so I gave him that new birthday sweater you never wear because the colour didn't suit you. His jeans were worn out so I gave him a pair of yours that you don't fit into anymore."

"Then as he was about to leave the house, he paused and asked, 'Is there anything else that your lover doesn't use anymore?' So, here we are!"

What's Happening at the ANE?

Continued from page 22

victims of same sex spousal violence seek assistance? This is not an HIV issue per se but is obviously a health issue. We have flagged this as an issue impacting the health of the gay and lesbian community. Because of our expertise in working in the community, we are trying to add this to the agenda of mainstream spousal abuse agencies, but are also exploring within the gay and lesbian community options for developing programs. We cannot deliver those programs because they are outside the scope of our mandate, but we could help set up a GLBT Family Development Centre brokering between the gay community and the social service community. Similarly, other programs which we have been delivering can now be seen to be outside of our scope – direct food support.

On the health promotion side, this also means evaluating whether all the work is HIV prevention specific.

In considering GMOC, it was clear that only a small proportion of the activity met that criteria; the proportion that is HIV specific we will continue to deliver but the remainder could and should be delivered by another more relevant community agency. GLCCE would be an option; Planned Parenthood, who is focusing on healthy sexuality, is certainly another option. We want to work with a community partner and are prepared to assist that partner in developing programs and seeking funds.

Another example of changing the way we work is the delivery of palliative care. Three years ago, the AIDS Network established a volunteer care team to provide

home palliative care support to dying individuals. Because of changes in treatment, we have only used the team two times. The volunteers have been unhappy because they feel that we are not utilizing their skills. Given these circumstances, it seems unproductive for us to maintain this group of volunteers, but we also recognize that there will be an ongoing need for occasional palliative care. To solve this problem, we are working with Pilgrims Hospice who want to develop a volunteer palliative care team for terminally ill patients whatever their particular condition. We will work collaboratively with them so that they incorporate capacities to deal with AIDS patients, and when they have an AIDS patient, we would support their volunteer team by either providing training or loaning any volunteers we might have who had HIV/AIDS specific knowledge. This means we aren't spending time maintaining an unused resource and volunteers who wish to do palliative work are being used.

One final point about change and its impact on the AIDS Network.

When this epidemic began, there was no knowledge or capacity to deal with the disease; over time, that knowledge and capacity has developed. We think there are many people in the LGBT community who know a lot about how to manage and cope with HIV. They have developed these skills through volunteering at the AIDS Network and because they have worked with their partners and friends. In another setting, we refer to peer support people as **natural helpers**. We think these natural helpers are likely talking and helping in the community without our interference. Which is to say, the gay community has acquired a lot of expertise and is using that expertise more informally to care for members of the community who are HIV+. One could conclude, therefore, that

the LGBT community is no longer as dependent on the AIDS Network as it once was. This is reflected in the fact that many HIV+ people are just living lives like HIV- people, without reference to paid social supports but rather using their own social supports

someway we could provide support to natural helpers? Should we have a monthly information and support session? Is there some other way we can support you in your support to others? Let us know.

There is a lot of work to do; there are many issues associated with HIV. We need the help of the LGBT community and the organizations within the LGBT community to develop and deliver services. We do not plan to abandon the community, but we do need to work differently with the LGBT community. We need to work with the LGBT community in the same way we intend to work with the women's community or the inner city community. The AIDS Network is, after all, an AIDS service organization and is compelled to provide support to **all** people infected and affected by HIV. Please come and work with us.



— of which the LGBT community has many — to help manage their life issues. Congratulations to all of you for acquiring that knowledge and skill and thank you for helping. Is there

Why therapy ?

What good does talking do ?

Therapy can:

- ▽ create a private place to heal emotional wounds
- ▽ enhance one's sense of personal worthiness
- ▽ diminish the impact of old experiences
- ▽ challenge the old beliefs that maintain self-defeating patterns
- ▽ open new possibilities
- ▽ provide information/resources
- ▽ help you make difficult life choices

What would we talk about ? Almost anything you want :

- ▽ am I crazy ?
- ▽ are we awful parents ? what's wrong with our family ?
- ▽ why am I so depressed ?
- ▽ why can't I forget about ...
- ▽ are my sexual desires/behaviors "all right to have"
- ▽ will these flashbacks and memories ever leave me alone ?
- ▽ how can we get along better ?
- ▽ what does my life mean ?
- ▽ how do we deal with our kids, aging parents
- ▽ what did I do to deserve this illness ?
- ▽ and anything else that needs to be talked about.

▽ Do we just talk ? No. We might also:

- ▽ draw, write, do hypnosis or e.m.d.r.
- ▽ use stories, movement, the sand tray
- ▽ laugh, cry, wonder
- ▽ use whatever is appropriate and helpful

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Not Everyone Is This Lucky

By Joshua

I would like to start by telling you that at the age of 12, I began to look at nude guys (porn) on the net. At this point, I did not know I was gay or looking at gay porn. I just thought I was looking at male nudes. I later realized that these sites were "gay sites". But the thought that I might be gay, had never even crossed my mind.

At 13, I recalled all the banners I had seen on the web pages. It occurred to me then, that these sites were gay and therefore I must or might be gay. I felt confused and frightened. I always felt there was something different about me, but I didn't have a word for it. Suddenly, the words were clear in my mind, I was gay. I then sat there crying, and I didn't know what to do.

I remembered the search engine, so I typed in "Gay Edmonton". Thankfully, a result came up showing cAyMaN's #GayEdmonton page. Amazed, I opened it thinking, "WOW, I am not the only gay person in Edmonton"! I sent cAyMaN an e-mail, saying that I would like to go for coffee with him, but it took him 2 weeks to reply. We finally connected and set up a time to meet.

We met at Southgate Shopping Center, where it was agreed he would pick me up and take me for coffee. I remember being so nervous I thought I would pee my pants. I had no idea what to expect, what he would look like, whether he would come in a dress or something feminine. When he arrived, he looked normal, like any person walking down a street, there was nothing obvious about him being gay. I was thinking, "Wow, this is the first gay person I know and he is hot and cool". We drove to Jazzberries (just after it changed

from Boystown). The big gay flag at the back of the restaurant stunned me. Then this big flamey waiter walks up and asks in a rude way, what we would like to drink. I ordered a coke, and I think cAyMaN did too. We talked and sipped, till he had to leave, and he drove me back to Southgate. I went home, sat back in my chair with the computer in front of me, kind of in shock, trying to understand everything that had happened and what I was feeling...

On cAyMaN's web page, he listed a chat program called IRC. I joined a channel called #GayEdmonton. A few people were on at the time (Algernon, Gax, ^Jinx^, ^X2C^, _Darien, and a few others). I



kept on asking everyone, "do you live normal lives?", "do you have a job?", "what do people say?".

I thought gay people didn't live normal lives because I never knew one.

Chatting helped me understand my sexuality, and that there many others like me. I spent hours talking to people about how they came out and how this affected their lives now.

^Jinx^ invited me to go to a movie with ^X2C^, and _Darien. I went and had lots of fun. I never thought gay people would have fun or even leave the house. This was a big wake up call for me! I went back on-line about 2 days later and saw ^Jinx^ again. I MSG'd him and he asked me if I would like to go to a concert with him, and so I did. We listened to punk music for about 2-4 hours, had a great time and then he drove me home.

I told one of my best friends (male) that I was gay. At the time he said he didn't have a problem with it, but he never called me back or returned

my calls. I told a female friend, who was really cool about it and said she wanted to meet ^Jinx^!

We all went for coffee the entire day, but this is when all hell broke loose. She had called her mom at about 9:00pm mentioning that she was out with some 21-year-old guy. Her mom freaked and called my Mom. I asked Jinx to drive me home and as he dropped me off my step dad took down the license plate number because he thought something bad was happening.

I came home, to a Mom that was crying, and a friend's mother who was worried. I got asked so many questions like, "Did he touch you?", "Did he

t a k e pictures?", "Did he hurt you in ANY way?". I sat there shaking my head, c r y i n g endlessly, hoping they would not find out my most deep secret. I was also w o r r i e d because they had contacted the police, thinking Jinx was some w a c k o pedophile. I

was worried about my new friend, and the trouble I would get him in just because he was helping me with my sexuality.

I jumped off my chair, and ran into the bathroom slamming and locking the door behind me. I cried and cried, as they yelled answers and questions at me. Then one question pulled my attention, "Is he gay"? I paused, not knowing how to reply, but I said, "Yes". Then, an even more frightening question, I knew that would come after this one,

"Are you gay". With a burst of tears I said quietly, "Yes".

My mother then said, "I think we should go for an ice-cream." We jumped into the car, and drove to the nearest McDonalds. She explained to me, how much she still loved me, and that she would always love me. I was glad she accepted it, but I knew and will always know, she would prefer me to be straight.

Confused and overwhelmed, I ran away the next night. My mom sat in the house, crying and throwing paper clips at my brother telling him it was all his fault because he called me a "Fag" all my life. I then made a call at 12-1:00am, asking for a ride home from my Mom. She called ^Jinx^ and asked him to come over for coffee. He came over for coffee and we all talked until 5:00am.

Thinking back on this now, my best family quotes were: Sister - "I bet you just have not found the right girl yet, let me go out and pay for a hooker". Brother - "Who did you tell? I don't care what you are but just don't tell any of my friends!" Mom - "It's okay, and I will always love you" Step Dad - "At least your not a serial killer" Grandma - "How do I wash the dishes when he eats at our house?" Grandpa - "Who cares, this is the 90's, things could be worse."

The next two years, I spent much of my time as Josh. Many people tried to convince me I was nothing but Gay Josh and that's all I will ever be. As being out at school, I have taken many verbal beatings. I don't care that much, other than the loss of friendships because of it.

I am very settled and accepting of my sexuality. My brothers friend's all know and they are cool with it. I am not very active in the gay community but my Mom does some public speaking for PFLAG. I don't know how to thank my Mother for being there for me and everything she had done to support me coming out, not everyone is this lucky.

If you would like to contact me you can visit my webpage at www.come.to/gayjosh or e-mail me at josh@v-wave.com.

By,
Joshua (^Josh^/RuShMe/
N_R_G)

*(Thanks for sharing your story with us Joshua.)
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Or you can mail them to our address in the table of contents.

Group Profiles

Celebrate Our Diversity and Pride

Edmonton Persons Living With HIV

Society:

Living Positive, is an organization of people living with HIV, their families, friends, and supporters. We work together to support one another as we learn to "live" with HIV.

Diversity and Pride are also a theme for Living Positive. While the greater percentage of persons diagnosed with AIDS in Edmonton are gay men, those who are HIV positive come from all walks of life. There is only one kind of person who gets HIV; human, and there are only two kinds of humans, male and female. HIV does not discriminate, people do. Nor does it know if you are male, female, transgendered, rich, poor, heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, transsexual, blue eyed, blond haired, live in Riverbend or Boyle Street, have had sex with 20 million people or just one, one time; it does not know if the needle stuck in your arm has "good drugs" or "bad drugs" in it nor does it care. What is amazing is that people through their discrimination, claim to be able to tell who it is that "has it" or will "get it". Members of Living Positive have over the years worked hard to dispel the myths about HIV and to challenge the stereotypes and assumptions about people who live with HIV.

Living Positive offers a safe environment where people living with HIV can begin to begin to overcome their isolation. It is a place for HIV positive people to get to know one another, exchange information and share their experiences living with HIV. Our Mission statement is: "To provide for persons living with HIV infections nurturing supportive environments in which to develop positive attitudes and self images."

We welcome people to drop in and get to know us. Living Positive supports and encourages the Lesbian Gay Community to celebrate our Diversity and Pride.

PFLAG-T

PFLAG-T Edmonton is a support organization for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and, of course, all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who wish to attend support meetings without their parents for whatever reason. Our primary objectives are to help families and their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members to love and understand one another, and to offer mutual support wherever needed. We invite other parents to share knowledge, to be free from fear, and to reach out, search and discover more about their children. We also welcome all heterosexual people who are interested in supporting these people in whatever way they can. PFLAG-T Edmonton networks with and supports, as time, "bodies" and dollars permit:

- The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
- The Youth Understanding Youth Group of Edmonton
- OUTreach, University of Alberta
- Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, a Canada-wide organization
- Gay and Lesbian Educators, B. C. (newsletter)

At the 1999 Pride Picnic hot dogs, both the meat-eater and vegetarian kinds, will be served along with pop, other treats and some "surprise" events. You are invited to COME AND SUPPORT YOUR EDMONTON PFLAG-T!

Dignity Edmonton

As the support group and faith-filled community, Dignity encourages a process of self-understanding and personal integration with respect to issues including spirituality and sexuality and other aspects of our humanness. As members of Dignity, we self-identify as Catholics because our religious heritage - inherited, taught, or chosen has been the Roman Catholic Church. Dignity's relationship with the "official" church varies from chapter to chapter, and from member to member. In our Dignity communities, we come together to express our faith in God who created us and loves us, with Christ as our model.

As members of Dignity, we consider ourselves as "church." The fact that we retain our Catholic identity while remaining within the community at large of lesbian and gay Christians about what matters in the church and the Edmonton area, so we can inform and be informed collectively, we interact with other gay groups in the issues pertaining to our lives. Either individually or at the Basilica, dining out, potluck suppers, or discussions and reflections on a wide spectrum of second and fourth Tuesday of each month for Mass Presently, Dignity Edmonton gathers every Dignity's liturgical celebrations.

with the sacramental life of the church is through that means. For some members, the only contact but rather we wish to maintain our identification as official church on matters of pastoral care for members an occasion to be conscience to the existence of a Dignity community is for some church pronouncements on sexual theology, raises questions for some of our fellow Catholics. The church, and while disagreeing with certain official

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Edmonton Well Represented at Western Cup

By Andrew Schuster

Edmonton was well represented at the Apollo Western Cup help during this year's Easter long weekend. The Western Cup is hosted each year by our sisters and brothers in Calgary. The weekend event includes competitive and recreational curling, volleyball, bowling and badminton events. Badminton is the newest sibling to join the family. The sporting events are coupled with social and intercity activities. The dance was well attended and the bingo was naughtier, larger and even more outrageous than last year.

Volleyball: 30 teams and over 200 players from cities across Western Canada and the USA converged on Calgary. The Free to Be Volleyball Association sent 3 teams from Edmonton: Juicy Fruits, Northern Spikes and Heart Throbs. The Heart Throbs placed second in the C division and were awarded a gleaming Silver Medal. According to one of the King Heart Throbs, the Gold winning team from Vancouver fell to their knees and kissed the ground in thanks after winning against Edmonton. It could have gone either way, but fortunately for Vancouver, they would take the gold this year. The Juicy Fruits and Northern Spikes worked hard, looked pretty and came home with fond memories. Billy got this years "Shut Up and Sleep With Me" award. I was unable confirm at the time of printing whether Billy was able to shut up.

Badminton: The inaugural inclusion of Badminton led to 15 badminton players competing. One member of Edmonton's former Birds of Feather badminton league carried the torch for our city. Perhaps we can expect more participation from Edmonton if the Birds of a Feather badminton league is successful in reviving itself. A core group of people has already expressed interest in playing regularly. If you want to start playing badminton in a supportive community environment, call Andrew at 435-9379 or email Free_to_Be@telusplanet.net.

Curling: 28 teams were accepted for this year's curling competition. Three teams from Edmonton attempted to register along with 35 other teams. Because of the limitation on size, only two Edmonton teams were successful in registering. The Edmonton Teams, Urban Ice and The Apostles, placed 2nd and 4th in the C Division respectively. The curling rink laid claimed to the Western Cup's only open bar. If you are interested in participating next year, contact Lance at 479-5308.

Bowling: In total, there where 88 bowlers and Edmonton's Northern Titans Bowling League sent 17 bowlers. Nobody placed in the money but sources say that the Edmonton bowlers had a really good time in Calgary. For information, contact Garry at 1-877-882-2011 Extension 2031 or davegarry@v-wave.com

Congratulations to all participants and good luck in next year's Western Cup.

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- WILL impair your judgement
- A Healthy Attitude
- AIDS still kills

The Nest

It is always sad when a person commits to a project, which will affect many lives and then walks out with a litany of sorry excuses. The rayven has flown away on us so we have renamed this page The Nest. You might find the rayven sitting atop one of the lampposts on Whyte Avenue in a lovely and very gay silk cloak. The Nest is dedicated to gay and lesbian youth aged sixteen to twenty-five.

I want to say a very big thank you to all of the people who pulled together and submitted lots of material. Thank you and keep writing!

You can e-mail me at: morganref@hotmail.com. Your stories, poems and artwork will encourage others and let them know that they are not alone. You will find all of the articles on this page on our home website at: www.times10.org.

Morgan Refshaug
The Nest Editor

The Land Of Nod

My nights are frigid, and
At times forewarned with fear.
I toss and turn, weary;
Reluctant to reach the Land of Nod.
Olivious to the peacefulness
That surrounds my person.
dreams become an agony upon my psyche;
Trepidation fills my eyes' anxious;
I tread silently, vigilantly
Into the "escaping" of the mind,
Possibly a refuge of some sort.
logic, rationally
Does not exist in this realm.
The Spirit is free (or should be!)
My nights are frigid, and
At times forewarned with fear.
I toss and turn, exhausted,
reaching the Land of Nod.
I'm told, time and time again
To take control of what I put
In front of my eyes; failing
Time and time again; filled
With apprehension, the dreams
Take control of me. Unsuccessful,
I lie there, stunned; contemplating
Whether or not I should attempt
This "state" once more.
My nights are frigid, and
At times forewarned with fear.

Rod VanVolsen

To Be A Drag King

By Mike Hunt LeSage

My name is Megan I have been a drag king for around three years, I think.

Being a drag king is a lot of fun; I used to think that I could only dress as a guy at Halloween. I started doing drag for a turn-about show; for those who don't know what that is, it is a show where drag kings and queens can add to the drag population. My first drag name was "MSG"; that name didn't last more than one show. My first number was "Don't Go Breaking My Heart". My friend and I were so nervous; what a cool experience. I have had two more names in my drag life; "Davey Wonder" and "Mike Hunt LeSage". My most recent name was given to me by my drag wife, "Vivian Marie LeSage". Not only do I have a wife, but I also have children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, aunts, mothers; the list goes on.

To become a king, you have to tape down your chest, add facial hair if you wish, dress like a guy, and making it look like you have a bulge is optional. When you are a king, you must try to act like a gentleman

Oh Father

Why don't you understand
That I'm trying to be my own man
All the things I do
You seem to disapprove
Where will this path you lead
me go
How long will I have to walk
in your shadow
Where is the sun to push it
away
Let me grow and go my own way
My heart is pure or do you
believe that to be untrue
Tell me why do you
disapprove what do I have to say
Your actions confuse me
sometimes
We are too similar yet far too
different
How can we see the world
through each others eyes
I know you love me and want
me to be safe
But it's impossible the
imprison me that way
I realize that it's hard to let go
Of a child you knew so long
ago
But I need individuality, I
need to grow
And I need you to know that I
love you so.

Sam Temraz

at all times. Also, carrying a lighter or two is a must; if you in close proximity of a queen that is taking a cigarette out of her purse and you don't light it for her, you can get in shit. I have learned this rule the hard way many a time; just ask my wife.

Another part of being a drag king is being able to dress like a guy. I have worn everything from a T-shirt and jeans to a full tuxedo. I can go from being very casual to looking like I could be a first class passenger on the Titanic. I've had everything from a baseball cap to a top hat on my head.

I love doing male drag I wish more women would do it to. If anybody would ever like to try doing male drag, I would be happy to do her up. Just email me at this address: darthvadar@hotmail.com.

Too Much Nothing

What do you do with the
desire
When it's stronger than you
can bear
When it's aching, thrashing,
and undeniable
But she just isn't there
How do you hold onto yourself
Comforting the flame tipped
wasp
When all that's around you is
cold air
And too much nothing to
grasp
How can the intangible
imagination
Bear the the burden of need
When what you lack is solid,
Warm, soft, and desperate to
breathe
Where do you toss to at night
when it's cold and you've
forgot
then turn to hear her heartbeat
When you are there but she is
not
Oh how the soul aches a
physical pain
How do you force it to rest
As it stirs inside of you
This hellful hateful test
Where do find your strength
When all you know is despair
When everything becomes this
shade of gray
Penetrating, everywhere
Oh why doesn't she love me
Is it too much to ask
was it just pretending
God there's just too much
nothing to grasp

Tori Scruton

